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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Before The Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, Judge

IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADOLESCENT)
ADDICTION/PERSONAL INJURY)
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION.)
)
)
) **NO. 4:22-MD-03047-YGR**
)

Oakland, California
Friday, October 25, 2024

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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1 **Friday, October 25, 2024**

9:01 a.m.

2 **P R O C E E D I N G S**

3 ---oo---

4 **THE COURT:** Good morning, everyone.5 **THE COURTROOM DEPUTY:** Calling case 4:22-MD-3047-YGR,
6 In Re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction Personal Injury
7 Products Liability Litigation. The list of counsel making an
8 appearance will be attached to the minutes.9 **THE COURT:** Okay. A lot to do today. Given how much
10 we have to do, we may end up taking a break so that the court
11 reporter doesn't get mad at me and stop working. We do have a
12 court reporter who is remote with us.13 So earlier this week -- you may or may not know, I think
14 you probably do, you all are in the know -- the judges had our
15 annual MDL conference, and I always try to take a few things
16 away from that conference to help me better -- do a better job,
17 I hope. We share a lot. We learn a lot. And so we're going
18 to talk about some ideas, changes, decisions with respect to
19 that issue.20 The first is, in preparation for these proceedings, I
21 always read your joint case management statement and request
22 for an agenda, and I understand from your MDL colleagues that,
23 in general, the process is a disaster. That everybody wants to
24 say their peace, that people want to relitigate, that it takes
25 hours and hours and hours to do, which is a total shame,

1 because I think I give you all, generally speaking, an
2 opportunity to say your peace.

3 All I'm really looking for is an agenda, the basic outline
4 of what it is you need to discuss, so that I can discuss it
5 with you, not so that I can read it. If any of you ever go to
6 trial with me, you will learn that before the jury enters the
7 courtroom, the first thing we do is people go to the mics and
8 they give me their list of issues. I don't want argument, I
9 don't want statements, I just want the list so that I can
10 figure out what's the most important thing to talk about. We
11 have a limited period of time. We start with the most
12 important, and if we don't get to the bottom, then we talk
13 about it after the jury leaves.

14 That's the point of the statements, to give me the list of
15 basic issues. Maybe a paragraph on a perspective so that I can
16 think about it before I get to the bench. But what I did when
17 I learned, because I didn't realize that this was such a
18 problem, the following is going to happen from now on:

19 First page of that statement should be an agenda for the
20 day. I want one page, one page that gives me the update on
21 JCCP and discovery. One page. Why? Because I talked to Judge
22 Kang. I talk to Judge Kuhl. I don't need your views in more
23 than one page. And then you each get five pages, that's it.
24 Each side gets five pages. I don't care what you put in there.

25 And like 403 motions in limine, you have time limits. So

1 I generally deny most of those motions. You can take a note
2 for trial. It's repetitive. Okay, if they want to use their
3 limited number of hours to give repetitive evidence, that's up
4 to you. You get five pages, that's it. So 12 pages. Two
5 pages are already telling me what you have to do, and then you
6 get five.

7 Do not repeat things that you've already told me. If
8 there's something in a prior CMC statement, I don't need a
9 two-line reference to the docket. I have all the CMC
10 statements. Just give me the date, CMC statement from
11 November 22nd, Docket Number X. I can find it. Don't repeat.
12 I am hoping that that will save you all a bunch of time.

13 The other thing I did, and I do not want to embarrass any
14 of you because you're all good lawyers, I redlined your last
15 CMC statement, and I'm going to send the redline to liaison
16 counsel by e-mail, and you can see how much stuff is in there
17 that I really didn't need to hear again or need to know. I
18 just need the headline. That's all I need. I think at one
19 point I got a really nice, succinct paragraph on an issue from
20 the defense. That's all I needed. I did not need the four
21 pages that followed. Why? Because I can ask you about it,
22 which is much more informative to me. Okay?

23 There are some other ideas that we'll talk about later,
24 but that is the first one.

25 There is a stay order that was mentioned in there about

1 plaintiffs with Discord and Roblox. Where are we on that
2 issue?

3 **MR. WARREN:** Your Honor, my understanding is that the
4 plaintiffs --

5 **THE COURTROOM DEPUTY:** Can you please state your
6 name?

7 **MR. WARREN:** Thank you for the reminder. Apologies.
8 Previn Warren for the personal injury and school district
9 plaintiffs.

10 My understanding, although I wasn't personally involved in
11 the discussions, is that the personal injury plaintiffs who
12 have claims against those defendants and counsel for those
13 defendants have agreed to a stay.

14 **THE COURT:** Well, that's what I read.

15 **MR. WARREN:** Yeah.

16 **THE COURT:** But I thought they were going to give me
17 an order to be issued, or is that not -- so if I don't have to
18 issue an order, that's fine. I thought I needed to issue an
19 order.

20 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Ashley Simonsen, counsel for the Meta
21 defendants.

22 Your Honor, as we stated in the statement, the defendants
23 were not consulted on this stipulation. We would want the
24 opportunity to confer with the other parties, namely plaintiffs
25 and Discord and Roblox about any stipulation that they'd like

1 to put before Your Honor, and we stated that in the CMC
2 statement. So I hope we'll be included in those conferrals.

3 I do want to note that even it was cases are stayed as to
4 Discord and Roblox, while we're not taking any position now as
5 to whether we will need discovery from those defendants, there
6 are bellwether plaintiffs that have asserted claims against the
7 four main defendants. We've also asserted claims against
8 Discord and Roblox. And so there may be a need for some
9 discovery, and we simply would want to make sure that any stay
10 would not impact our ability to take any discovery that we
11 need.

12 **MR. WARREN:** Sounds like the parties should meet and
13 confer.

14 **THE COURT:** Sounds like it. Okay.

15 **MR. WARREN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** I'll just make a note, more to come.

17 On the bellwether issue, I have talked to all of the
18 district judges, all of the district chief judges and all of
19 the circuit judges, and everyone has agreed that I can go to
20 those various places to try those cases. They've been quite
21 gracious. There's still a lot of paperwork that needs to be
22 done. The chief still needs to agree. But we're making
23 progress, which is all I wanted to let you know. So, and I've
24 told all of them I don't know that they will ultimately be
25 chosen, but to the extent that they are, I've got terrific

1 cooperation with my colleagues. Okay?

2 Okay. With respect -- do I have -- I issued an order on
3 the Attorney Generals' claims. The Montana claims were on the
4 sideline. Where are we? Have you met and conferred on that?
5 I see someone coming to the mic.

6 Yes.

7 **MS. WOLD:** Your Honor, I'm Megan Wold on behalf of
8 the State of Montana.

9 Montana reached out to Meta to meet and confer in advance
10 of today's conference, but we didn't hear back from them. It's
11 our position that Your Honor's order would apply equally in
12 Montana, so I think if Meta disagrees with that it would be up
13 to them to say so.

14 Your Honor had mentioned one of the status conferences in
15 March of this year. The order to show cause procedure that
16 you've used in the past, that would certainly be acceptable to
17 Montana.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. Is there some view from Meta that
19 it doesn't apply to Montana?

20 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Your Honor, we intend to get back to
21 Montana I think today on this. And I'll be candid with Your
22 Honor that I don't -- I am not the person who has our precise
23 position on this at the moment. But I assure Montana, we will
24 get back to you promptly, and we can commit to do that today.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. I want to know what the answer is.

1 If I can -- any process I can avoid, I try to avoid.

2 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Understood.

3 **THE COURT:** So you have -- today is the 25th. So
4 file your position by November 1st, if we can -- so you get one
5 week. Obviously if I don't have to -- I don't know why it
6 wouldn't apply, and if we can just get that in writing, then we
7 can move forward. Okay?

8 **MS. SIMONSEN:** I think that's right, Your Honor. And
9 we'll probably be able to do it sooner than that.

10 Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

12 **MS. WOLD:** Thank you, Your Honor.

13 **THE COURT:** All right. Let's talk about expert
14 discovery. Who's speaking on the defense side on the topic?

15 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Your Honor, Michael Imbroscio from
16 Covington & Burling for Meta.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. Ms. Hazam, can you state your
18 appearance?

19 **MS. HAZAM:** Lexi Hazam on behalf of plaintiffs.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay. This MDL is not Judge Kuhl's case.
21 And I don't mean it in the sense of who's presiding, I mean it
22 in the sense of scope and complexity, and I'm not changing my
23 process to match hers. And by the way, she knows that.

24 What I will do -- well, and let me say also, the
25 California Code of Civil Procedures has requirements that she

1 must follow, and I'm not bound by that structure, and I won't
2 use that structure when I don't think it's appropriate.

3 In this case -- and I believe the reason that Judge Kuhl
4 is moving quickly on causation is because she has the same
5 concerns. In this case causation is another hurdle for
6 plaintiffs. So she wants to resolve -- I mean, you know, on
7 her end if it can't get that hurdle, it's off to the court of
8 appeal. Here, until -- it seems to me until you -- I don't
9 know what your experts are going to say about causation. And I
10 raise causation at the very beginning, as I believe Judge Kuhl
11 did, as well.

12 So I don't want expert reports that speak past each other.
13 While it may be --

14 Turn off the phone, whoever's phone is on.

15 While it may be that the California process requires
16 simultaneous expert reports -- and by the way, I order them all
17 the time. I frequently order simultaneous reports when I think
18 it's appropriate. Here I do not, because I want to know what
19 it is the plaintiffs are prepared to have experts say, and then
20 I need a response from the defendants. So I don't want them
21 guessing what it is your experts are going to say, I want them
22 to respond to what your experts are saying.

23 Now, if you want to forego a reply brief or a reply
24 report, that could shorten the process. Do you want to do
25 that?

1 **MS. HAZAM:** We do not, Your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. I didn't think you would. I
3 wouldn't if I was in your shoes. So the most that I'm willing
4 to do is the following.

5 I looked at your schedule again, and in the schedule, from
6 the time the reports are due, defendants have seven and a half
7 weeks to respond. The reply is due three weeks after that. I
8 am prepared to change this order to say we'll keep our own
9 deadlines but to expand it to say, or seven weeks after the
10 filing of the report. So if you can get your expert report out
11 instead of in May, in April, or in March, or in February, then,
12 by definition, the defense will have to respond sooner.

13 And it can be rolling. You get the most -- so does the --
14 yeah, you're on the -- you're on the screen with your eyebrow
15 raised.

16 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** I'm sorry.

17 **THE COURT:** That's okay. Everybody knows you had a
18 question. You don't understand what I mean by that, so let me
19 explain. And that's why I don't like. I think Zoom's better
20 or in person.

21 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Thank you, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** You say you're going to have 20 experts.
23 Right?

24 **MS. HAZAM:** Approximately, yes, between all of the
25 plaintiffs. And that includes general and case specific.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. So you also said that it was I
2 think 50-50. So about 10, then, for general causation.

3 **MS. HAZAM:** General liability experts, which is
4 general causation, but also additional topics. Anything that
5 is not case specific, Your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. Are you going to have -- how many
7 experts are you going to have on causation, general causation?

8 **MS. HAZAM:** I understand the question.

9 I would estimate in the arena of five to six for the
10 private plaintiffs, meaning the personal injury and school
11 district plaintiffs. The AGs may have additional experts that
12 may not technically be characterized as general causation, but
13 may be similar. They could speak to that.

14 **MS. MIYATA:** Bianca Miata for the state AGs.

15 That's correct, Your Honor. I believe in addition to
16 those five to six general causation experts that Ms. Hazam
17 mentioned, the AGs would have an additional three is my
18 estimate.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay. People may want to file lots of
20 *Dauberts*. As you know, my rule only allows for three. I
21 understand the perspective of the defense that they don't think
22 it's enough. I can tell you that many of my colleagues, their
23 rule is you prioritize your *Dauberts*, and the first one that is
24 denied, we stop. That is, as soon as you get a denial, we
25 don't look at any other ones. Thought that was an interesting

1 approach. Forces you to really focus on what's important.

2 But the general causation issues are going to be -- are
 3 going to be critical. So to the extent that you can focus on
 4 getting those reports out, then if there are nothing there --
 5 and I'm sure that the defense is going to say there is
 6 something there -- then we can advance briefing and we can move
 7 this thing faster. So, you know, I don't know how much
 8 discovery they need to issue those opinions. There is
 9 certainly a lot of discovery already out there. They obviously
 10 have views already.

11 So, you know, this can get advanced, but we are going to
 12 do it in a manner in which I've structured this. So, or at
 13 least I should say that's my going-in position.

14 Does anybody wish to be heard?

15 **MS. HAZAM:** Plaintiffs wish to be heard, Your Honor.

16 We understand the Court's instructions and will abide by
 17 them. I want to make clear that we negotiated the prior
 18 schedule in good faith at the time, and that of course included
 19 the staggered disclosures that Your Honor refers to, and we
 20 understand that Your Honor would like to keep that structure.
 21 We --

22 **THE COURT:** And let me also say, even if you had
 23 advocated for it differently at the outset, I wouldn't have
 24 agreed, because I don't think it's appropriate in this case.

25 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor. And we

1 appreciate that feedback.

2 We made suggestions for certain changes, not solely
3 because the JCCP court asked us to consider it and consult with
4 one another and then with Your Honor, but also because we
5 thought that there were certain aspects of what the JCCP court
6 was trying to achieve that would serve this MDL well also.

7 So, for example, getting to the possibility of a *Daubert*
8 hearing earlier was something that Your Honor had indicated
9 previously might be helpful to the Court.

10 **THE COURT:** And under my approach, we can. It's
11 really in your hands.

12 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor. I appreciate the
13 opportunity to see if we can move some of this up.

14 The other component of the JCCP schedule that we thought
15 was helpful and worth consideration, at least here, was the
16 selection of the trial pool of bellwethers at an earlier date
17 prior to the expert reports, which is the manner in which it's
18 being done in the JCCP, because that likely will result in
19 fewer expert reports and allow the schedule to proceed faster.
20 So it would be on the basis of fact discovery only.

21 We had proposed a date of March 28th for that, which is
22 just prior to the close of fact discovery. We currently have a
23 full 24 bellwether plaintiffs in the pools, 12 in each category
24 of personal injury plaintiffs and school district plaintiffs.

25 **THE COURT:** And that's a separate issue, so let's put

1 that one to the side. Do you all wish to be heard on the
2 schedule with respect to general causation?

3 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Yes, Your Honor, briefly.

4 In general that seems fine to us. I think there can
5 sometimes be a definitional issue which we talked about today
6 between what is science general causation versus general
7 liability. As long as they're willing to put forth all of
8 their science general causation witnesses together, then we
9 will respond in seven weeks.

10 The reason I raised my eyebrow earlier, and I apologize,
11 is we don't want to get half of their general causation people
12 and then the next half comes on the deadline. As long as it's
13 done at the same time, I think we can make that work.

14 **THE COURT:** Well, I don't know ... well, I don't know
15 who they are.

16 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Neither do we. Yeah, yeah.

17 **THE COURT:** And so it's hard to have a rule.

18 Let me also say this. Nine -- well, I don't know how
19 you're going to split them out. You have five to six on
20 general causation for one group, three on the other. The five
21 to six, are they three with respect to private plaintiffs and
22 three with respect to school districts, or are they intended to
23 be across the board of all the sets? And I ask that for a
24 couple of reasons:

25 One, an AG case would be tried separately, a personal

1 plaintiff case would obviously be tried separately, and a
2 school district case would be tried separately. What I tend to
3 not allow are multiple experts who are saying the exact same
4 thing. So know now that you will not be allowed at trial to
5 have multiple experts who are duplicative of each other.

6 Now, if they come to it from a different perspective,
7 that's not duplicative. So duplicative is, you know, people
8 with the same background.

9 Mr. -- how do I say your name again?

10 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Imbroscio, Your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Imbroscio.

12 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Thank you.

13 **THE COURT:** So I don't want to get a motion that
14 we've got duplicative experts because they all agree causation
15 exists; denied.

16 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Of course. Understood.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. You say "of course," but I have
18 lawyers giving me law professors as experts on elements of
19 claims, and they don't understand that that's not an -- that
20 law professors can't be -- opine on the application of class
certification to a case. So I just want to be really clear.

22 **MS. HAZAM:** Your Honor, if I may?

23 **THE COURT:** Yeah, so I don't know how you've -- I
24 don't know what perspective any of these folks are coming from.
25 I don't know if you're still in the process of working this out

1 or what, but it's hard for me to say -- yeah, it's hard for me
2 to do this in a vacuum.

3 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor. I think it's
4 challenging perhaps for all of us at this stage, but I would
5 say that Mr. Imbroscio's comments with regards to the Court's
6 proposal that you could have some reports come in earlier than
7 the required deadlines and be on a rolling basis suggests to me
8 that, in fact, defendants' position is going to be that all
9 expert reports other than specific causation reports that are
10 specific to particular bellwethers would have to come at the
11 same time, which I think would defeat, to some extent, the
12 Court's purpose.

13 I do understand that if it is a, what we would call a core
14 general causation expert, that those, it may make sense to have
15 all of them, coming from their different perspectives, without
16 duplication, at once. But I don't know that that automatically
17 carries over to other kinds of general liability experts, and
18 it may be that some subset of that, whether it's all the
19 general causation at once or it's some of the other experts,
20 could be done on a rolling basis. I think that's difficult for
21 all of us to specify now, but I do believe there should be
22 openness to a discussion of exactly what the Court has
23 proposed, which is you don't have to have all of the general
24 liability expert reports at the same time.

25 **THE COURT:** Yeah. So, again, I don't know. Right?

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1 We're in October, and these reports are not due under the
2 current scheduling order until --

3 **MS. HAZAM:** May 16th, Your Honor, the opening
4 reports.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. So it would be -- I mean, I guess
6 what I'd like to know is when is it -- if I asked you to
7 disclose the names and general area upon which someone was
8 going to opine, when could you be ready to disclose that?

9 **MS. HAZAM:** I think we'd have to confer with one
10 another and with the AGs also about that timing.

11 It also depends, Your Honor, on the progress in fact
12 discovery. We believe, the plaintiffs believe, that in this
13 case much of the evidence regarding causation issues is with
14 the defendants. And while we are approaching the close of
15 document discovery, the substantial completion date, we are
16 going to see many thousands, hundreds of thousands of documents
17 produced at the end. And then we have very important witnesses
18 that speak to these issues, and scheduling their depositions is
19 not entirely within plaintiffs' control.

20 One of the concerns we had about contemplating general
21 causation happening before the close of fact discovery, would
22 be that there would be depositions after reports that are
23 relevant to those topics and that could incentivize some
24 gamesmanship in such scheduling. So we're --

25 **THE COURT:** Look, the way we can deal with that in

1 terms of gamesmanship is that, like we do, or at least like I
2 do in class certification cases, I do allow a short period of
3 time for experts to kind of amend the -- not the core opinions,
4 but perhaps amend the basis for the opinions that may get
5 bolstered because something comes up after the fact that is
6 consistent with their view, so that they are not precluded at
7 trial from testifying as to that fact.

8 So that can be done without stopping a, you know, the
9 progress of getting their core opinions out based upon what
10 they have, so that we could achieve an earlier, you know,
11 earlier hearings as to the *Dauberts*.

12 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor. And we
13 appreciate that point. And if we are able, in our estimation,
14 to accelerate the initial reports at all, we may be seeking
15 exactly that accommodation. But I think we need to meet and
16 confer to determine when we might be able to make a, I think,
17 identification disclosure along the lines of what Your Honor is
18 suggesting, and whether we could do earlier reports than
19 May 16th. It may be that we don't believe we can and that we
20 just stick with the current schedule, but we appreciate at
21 least that opportunity to see if things can be accelerated, and
22 we'll explore that and also explore how that may assist in
23 avoiding experts sitting for multiple depositions in the way we
24 were seeking to in coordinating with the JCCP.

25 But we understand Your Honor's instructions.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. That's fine. If, in the JCCP, one
 2 of these experts has already issued a report -- well, actually,
 3 do they -- are they going to issue a report?

4 **MS. HAZAM:** So it's a good question, Your Honor.

5 I think the JCCP -- and there are counsel for the JCCP
 6 here who could speak to this, as well, but I believe their
 7 intent is to propose to Judge Kuhl that simultaneous initial
 8 reports be on May 2nd, which is what we proposed in our latest
 9 recommendation to the Court and would be prepared to live with,
 10 even if reports are staggered in the MDL.

11 So we would be striving for the same date that the JCCP
 12 plaintiffs are seeking for initial reports, understanding that
 13 the current deadline from the Court is two weeks later, on
 14 May 16th.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. Well, we have -- we
 16 still have time to figure this out.

17 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** If I may very briefly, Your Honor.

18 Just I think I've tried to be clear earlier. I am not
 19 conflating general causation science witnesses with general
 20 liability conduct witnesses, or however it may be, they can be
 21 spread across. My only point was for the ones that are going
 22 to come in and say there's general causation, from a science
 23 perspective it should be done in the same cycle I guess is all
 24 I was suggesting.

25 **THE COURT:** Well, the reality is that even based upon

1 what I've said, they're only -- they're only seeking to move it
2 up two weeks. They would just like your reports at the exact
3 same time. And I'm not -- I don't think that's appropriate in
4 this case.

5 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** Fair enough. And you won't be
6 surprised to hear that we will probably not agree to that
7 suggestion in the JCCP.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay. We talked a little bit a moment
9 ago about -- let's talk about the bellwethers. And, you know,
10 when we had what I would call a revolving door with respect to
11 those four slots on the *Lexecon* issue. You know, I asked
12 whether it would make a difference to the parties if I agreed
13 to try them, so that way you get consistency across various
14 jurisdictions. Really, it's a difference in jury pools and
15 things like that, because bellwethers are there to give you
16 information. So to the extent that we can get information
17 through these trials, that's -- that was the manner in which I
18 obviously, you know, stopped the cycle of the merry-go-round
19 for those four seats.

20 But it then occurred to me the other problem that I
21 frequently hear happening in MDLs is that you get all the way
22 to trial, bellwethers are selected, and at the last minute,
23 plaintiffs dismiss or defendants pick off plaintiffs with big
24 settlements. So what I'm going to tell you now is, again, an
25 approach to help stop some of the gamesmanship. I will only

1 try trials in pairs: One defense case, one plaintiffs' case.
2 The plaintiffs will not get multiple cases at the expense of a
3 defense case. Okay?

4 So if we're trying four cases: Defense, plaintiff,
5 plaintiff, defense. That's the way they'll be tried. And if
6 you run out, then you run out.

7 **MS. HAZAM:** May I ask a question to clarify it, Your
8 Honor?

9 **THE COURT:** You may.

10 **MS. HAZAM:** Is it Your Honor's intent that these
11 cases would be tried together in a single trial, or is Your
12 Honor --

13 **THE COURT:** No.

14 **MS. HAZAM:** -- just speaking of ordering?

15 **THE COURT:** I'm talking about ordering.

16 **MS. HAZAM:** Would Your Honor mind restating the order
17 that you have in mind? Is it just alteration, or did you mean
18 to identify the first --

19 **THE COURT:** I actually -- so for every four --

20 **MS. HAZAM:** Yes.

21 **THE COURT:** -- defense goes first, then plaintiff,
22 then plaintiff again, and then defense. I guess I could do
23 plaintiff, defense, defense, plaintiff, but it's going to be
24 one of the two.

25 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood.

1 So these are four consecutive trials?

2 **THE COURT:** Correct.

3 **MS. HAZAM:** And the idea is to have equal
4 representation of plaintiff and defense picks.

5 **THE COURT:** Correct. And if you start buying people
6 off or dismissing because you found you didn't have a good
7 plaintiff, it's on you, but you won't get your bellwethers at
8 the expense of the other side.

9 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor.

10 And plaintiffs have no issue with that arrangement. I
11 don't know if the Court intends today to determine which side's
12 pick would be first in this sequence.

13 **THE COURT:** No, I don't.

14 **MS. HAZAM:** Okay. Thank you.

15 **THE COURT:** And I will probably pick it myself
16 depending ultimately on the cases. So I'm just letting you
17 know now that this is one of the ways in which I intend to help
18 with the gamesmanship that I understand from my colleagues
19 happens routinely in these MDLs.

20 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** We have no objection. That seems
21 like a perfectly appropriate way to deal with it.

22 **THE COURT:** I know. See, I have the best products
23 liability lawyers in the courtroom, and so I know there aren't
24 going to be any of these issues with y'all, but just in case.
25 Trust, but verify.

1 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. You couldn't agree on expert
3 witness certifications.

4 **MS. HAZAM:** Your Honor, if I may just briefly before
5 we leave the schedule.

6 **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

7 **MS. HAZAM:** And if Your Honor isn't prepared to
8 address this today, it's fine.

9 But we would like at some point to talk about the
10 possibility of having the winnowing to the trial pool earlier,
11 at the close of fact discovery versus partway through expert
12 reports, in part to reduce the expert report burden and perhaps
13 allow that schedule to go more quickly. That's the way it is
14 being done in the JCCP. Of course, that does not dictate
15 things here, but we think it would be appropriate.

16 **THE COURT:** My -- again, the reason that I put that
17 schedule together is because I think causation matters. And in
18 terms of -- if cases are picked for bellwethers before people
19 know what the experts are going to say about those individuals,
20 it could, I think, inappropriately skew the bellwethers. So I
21 understand that there is a cost, but given how critical it is,
22 and I don't know what your experts are going to say, I am not
23 inclined without more understanding of how you're going to deal
24 with causation, frankly.

25 So I just ... yeah.

1 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor.

2 There are a total of 24, 12 in each group. We were not
3 suggesting that we get to the ultimate size of the trial pool
4 necessarily prior to expert discovery or prior to at least
5 specific case expert discovery, but we do think that those
6 pools could be reduced somewhat, for example, from 12 down to
7 eight in each category, through a process that seems fair that
8 involves input of both sides. And then the pools could shrink
9 further based on those expert reports.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thoughts?

11 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** I think one of the challenges is what
12 you said when this first came up a few months ago, which is
13 having the -- what the plaintiffs' specific causation expert is
14 going to say will inform the judgment as to which are the best
15 plaintiffs to pick in the bellwether. So we would suggest
16 keeping the schedule as it is.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. I will look at it again. And I
18 don't think that a reduction is necessarily a bad idea if the
19 other ones are kind of held in abeyance. But again, to stop
20 some of the gamesmanship, perhaps what I would do is -- and I
21 don't want to commit to it right now, but perhaps I could have
22 a process which would say, okay, here -- you know, here is the
23 pool. Each of you give me six strikes. The other side doesn't
24 know. And if it matches and you all -- then you both in a
25 sense agree. And I might put some parameters around that so

1 that you're not just striking, you know, the other side's
2 folks. You know, then it would be appropriate where there's
3 agreement to put those on the side. I'd have to think about
4 it.

5 **MS. HAZAM:** Plaintiffs would be amenable to such a
6 process.

7 Our proposal is not to have this become in any way
8 one-sided, it's just to have a small reduction to reduce the
9 burden and be able to move faster. So our proposal is not that
10 we unilaterally in any way determine those that would be
11 removed from the pool.

12 **THE COURT:** Yeah. Or ... yeah.

13 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** One challenge that I can see in that
14 is the cross-strikes make sense when the original set was
15 chosen randomly. When they're chosen the way they were we may
16 end up in a situation that you anticipated, which is we're
17 going to strike theirs, they're going to strike ours.

18 **THE COURT:** Well, not if I say you can't. That's my
19 point. If I say you can strike -- well, maybe I -- I don't
20 know.

21 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** It's a tricky issue.

22 **THE COURT:** Right.

23 Maybe I say ... you know, maybe I'll have you rank them,
24 give me your ranking. So I -- let me think on it.

25 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** We will.

1 **THE COURT:** Because -- and if you all can agree on a
2 process that's fine, but I do think it benefits everybody to
3 have fewer, right, the cost of having fewer experts on both
4 sides. The question is: How do we get there in a way that
5 leaves us with a pool that is -- that will actually give
6 information.

7 **MS. HAZAM:** I think we'd be happy to meet and confer
8 with that in mind, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** So I'm happy to be creative, I just don't
10 know how we get there yet. And I ... so we need to think about
11 it.

12 Okay.

13 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** If I may before I sit down, I just
14 wanted to -- Mr. Schmidt wanted to pass along his apologies.
15 He's in a deposition, and I'm a poor substitute for my good
16 friend. But he wanted to pass that along.

17 **THE COURT:** Well, I'm sure he's having lots of fun.

18 **MR. IMBROSCIO:** So I've heard.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay. On expert witness certification.
20 So clearly defense proposal, Subsections C and D, are no-goes.
21 I'm not going to force people to do something that's not
22 required by the rule.

23 One interesting thing that the defendants noted in their
24 statement that I -- that I will share with you. While the
25 federal rules allow judges to have experts, especially in

1 antitrust cases, we all pretty much agreed that we don't,
2 because experts come to the table with perspectives, and
3 frequently experts have perspectives that either comport with
4 the defendants' view of the world or the defense view of the
5 world. And so just getting your own expert doesn't really
6 help, because that person's view may be skewed. So it's better
7 to just let the experts battle it out. That's why we tend not
8 to do that. It just adds. It adds another layer, and you
9 just, you know, you're trying to be as neutral as possible.

10 It does look like there is some measure of overlap between
11 plaintiffs' view and defendants' view, so what I'd ask each of
12 you to comment on is what is objectionable about the other
13 side's approach.

14 So either one of you can start.

15 **MR. WARREN:** I'm happy to go first. Previn Warren
16 for the personal injury and school district plaintiffs.

17 I am not sure there is a lot of daylight between Items 1
18 and 2 in our list and Items A and B in defendants' list. I
19 think it may just be a question of -- largely of verbiage. So
20 might I propose that perhaps the parties could meet and confer
21 to align those two statements and come up with a draft
22 certification that each side's experts would have to sign, and
23 I believe that we'd be able to do that.

24 **MR. BLAVIN:** I agree with that, Your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** Excellent. Okay.

1 (Reporter clarification.)

2 **THE COURT:** Oh, yes.

3 **MR. BLAVIN:** Apologies. Jonathan Blavin on behalf of
4 Snap.

5 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Okay. Terrific.

6 **MR. WARREN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

7 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let's go ahead now and move to the
8 arguments on Judge Kang's order.

9 **MS. STEVENSON:** Good morning, Your Honor. I'm
10 Shannon Stevenson, Solicitor General for Colorado, on behalf of
11 the state AGs.

12 **MR. HALPERIN:** Good morning, Your Honor. Greg
13 Halperin for the Meta defendants. I've got several colleagues
14 with me, as well, depending on whether Your Honor wishes to
15 hear state-specific argument, but I'll be handling the general
16 argument.

17 **MS. STEVENSON:** And, Your Honor, with respect to the
18 state --

19 **THE COURT:** You said Halperin?

20 **MR. HALPERIN:** Halperin, yes.

21 **MS. STEVENSON:** Your Honor, we have 21
22 representatives from the state attorneys general here; three of
23 us who have divided up the common argument portions, and then
24 the remainder who are happy to address their state-specific
25 issues and any questions you might have on those.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. Well, let's first talk about the
2 standard of review, because the standard of review is critical,
3 and I think the states got it wrong.

4 **MS. STEVENSON:** Your Honor, certainly we are acutely
5 aware of the deference that Your Honor gives to the magistrate
6 judges.

7 **THE COURT:** It's not me, it's the statute.

8 **MS. STEVENSON:** Right.

9 **THE COURT:** Title 28, Section 636(b)(1)(A) and Rule
10 72 explicitly say, explicitly say that the standard refers to
11 clearly erroneous and contrary to law. It is not a de novo
12 standard, this is not a dispositive motion, and there is no
13 basis for the AGs to make an argument that it should be.

14 So start there.

15 **MS. STEVENSON:** Right.

16 We believe, Your Honor, that the order is contrary to law,
17 contrary to binding Ninth Circuit precedent in *Citric Acid*.

18 **THE COURT:** I need you to explicitly acknowledge that
19 this is not a de novo standard.

20 **MS. STEVENSON:** Yes, Your Honor.

21 I think there -- when you get to certain questions of law,
22 it's reviewed de novo versus, you know, as would be compared to
23 a clear --

24 **THE COURT:** What does the statute say?

25 **MS. STEVENSON:** Your Honor, we understand it is

1 contrary to law, and I believe that's the argument that we've
2 set forth and that we're prepared to make today, that it's
3 contrary to the binding precedent found in the *Citric Acid*
4 test.

5 **THE COURT:** And you understand that you referenced a
6 de novo standard in your reply brief.

7 **MS. STEVENSON:** I accept your representation on that,
8 Your Honor.

9 I do think it is a little bit tricky when you're trying to
10 ask the Court to review and interpret statutes how you approach
11 that, and when you're looking at a legal issue it's different
12 than looking at a factual issue, and I think that's probably
13 what we were talking about. But we certainly understand that
14 the hurdle that we have to get over here is to show that the
15 magistrate's order was contrary to law.

16 **THE COURT:** Response?

17 **MR. HALPERIN:** We certainly agree, Your Honor, that
18 the standard is contrary to law. We think it's very clear from
19 the Court's order and from the parties' briefing that the test
20 for control isn't disputed; that Judge Kang applied the test
21 for control, and that he really made at least four fact-based
22 determinations that were critical to which Judge Kang held in
23 this case.

24 He looked at who were the parties in the case, who were
25 the parties suing on behalf of. That's a fact-based

1 determination.

2 He looked at: Are the AGs going to represent these
3 agencies? He asked the AGs, will you represent the agencies in
4 question. That's a fact-based determination.

5 He asked: Are you asserting privilege over your
6 communications with those agencies? Another fact-based
7 determination.

8 And he asked, fourth: Are there financial interests of
9 the agencies and the attorneys general in common under these
10 specific circumstances? Another fact-based determination.

11 On top of that, he applied his discretion to control the
12 matter of discovery consistent with Rule 1, which he has broad
13 discretion to do.

14 So based on all of those facts, based on the totality of
15 the circumstances, we do believe that the standard is not de
16 novo review. The standard is did he clearly err or make
17 findings contrary to law.

18 **THE COURT:** Do you disagree that he made those
19 factual findings?

20 **MS. STEVENSON:** I disagree that those are factual
21 findings in the way that my colleague has described, and I
22 think the fundamental question here is, is there a legal right
23 to obtain documents on demand. And the order does not provide
24 what that legal right is. That's the legal failing that's at
25 issue here, and that's why the order is contrary to law.

1 And I think there are subissues underneath that that are
2 legal issues and some that could conceivably be characterized
3 as factual issues, but this was also Meta's burden to prove,
4 and they came forward with no evidence on anything.

5 **THE COURT:** I thought that -- and you can remind me
6 if I'm wrong; the order was 285 pages -- that Judge Kang asked
7 the states for specific information, and most, except for one,
8 refused or did not provide it.

9 **MS. STEVENSON:** That's correct.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. So haven't you waived it? He
11 asked you for information, you don't provide it, so you waive
12 it.

13 **MS. STEVENSON:** I'm sorry. The states didn't provide
14 the information except for one?

15 **THE COURT:** Correct.

16 **MS. STEVENSON:** No, I don't think that's correct.

17 He asked us to fill out a chart that said if we would
18 represent agencies if he were to issue an order finding
19 control, and we provided that chart and answered those
20 questions, and then we had the one-pagers to address the other
21 questions. So I believe everybody answered all of the
22 questions that were asked.

23 But, Your Honor, I think the problem here is even
24 accepting all of the questions that he asked and the findings
25 that he made, those do not amount to establishing a legal right

1 for the AGs to obtain agency documents on demand, and that's
2 our fundamental position in this case.

3 When you look to the binding Ninth Circuit precedent on
4 this issue found in *Citric Acid*, found in *Petroleum Workers*,
5 what it requires is for the judge to look at what is the legal
6 relationship of these parties outside of this lawsuit, and to
7 point to something, whether it's the Constitution, whether it's
8 a statute, whether it's a contract, that gives that party the
9 legal right to demand the nonparty's documents on -- or to
10 obtain the nonparty's documents on demand, and that is what is
11 missing from the order.

12 And, you know, there are serious consequences to that. I
13 think we're here, and --

14 **THE COURT:** Stop.

15 What's the response on that issue?

16 **MR. HALPERIN:** As to the -- on the waiver issue, or
17 the issue that counsel just raised?

18 **THE COURT:** The one she just raised.

19 **MR. HALPERIN:** I think it's not contrary to binding
20 Ninth Circuit precedent.

21 *Citric Acid* provides the test. There has been no court
22 that has said, here's how you look and define legal right.
23 It's a fact-based analysis, as Judge Kang said: "No court has
24 attempted to limit or compile all factors relevant to an
25 analysis under the *Citric Acid* legal control test," he writes

1 at page 6.

2 Multiple courts, though, have done the exact same analysis
3 under the same legal right test that Judge Kang applied and
4 come to the same conclusion. I'd point Your Honor to *In Re:*
5 *Generic* out of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania did the
6 same analysis under the same legal right test. *Raoul versus*
7 *Monsanto* from the Southern District of Illinois did the same
8 thing, applying the same legal right test. The *Freyre* case out
9 of Florida did the same thing under the same legal right test.

10 And particularly instructive, Your Honor, is *Raoul*, where
11 the Court said, particularly salient to this particular issue
12 on whether an Attorney General represents state agencies are
13 two things:

14 "One, whether the party and the related nonparty exchanged
15 documents in the ordinary course of business." And there's no
16 doubt that where these attorneys general are required to
17 represent state agencies and do represent state agencies, that
18 they do exchange documents in the ordinary course of business.

19 "And, two, whether there is any benefit or involvement by
20 the nonparty in the litigation." There clearly is that here,
21 as well, in many states here. Any recovery by the attorneys
22 general on behalf of their state will go into the general fund,
23 where it will go to benefit these state agencies.

24 So applying those two factors alone, as well as the others
25 that I referenced earlier, meet the legal control test.

1 **THE COURT:** All right. A response?

2 **MS. STEVENSON:** Your Honor, my colleague didn't
3 answer the question, and this is the exact problem. What is
4 the legal right that the attorneys general have to demand --
5 obtain the agency documents on demand? It's not answered in
6 the order, he didn't answer it now, and this is the problem.

7 The whole reason for the *Citric Acid* test is so that if
8 there's noncompliance, the Court can order the party to do
9 something, and here there's just nothing that the Court could
10 order us to do that we have the power to do. And I disagree.
11 He's walked through all these factors. The factors aren't the
12 test here. The test is legal right to obtain documents on
13 demand. And to the extent he's trying to blur the lines with
14 the cases that do the practicality test, that's not what we're
15 talking about here.

16 Voluntary compliance of people willingly exchange
17 documents *Citric Acid* has said is not enough, and the
18 theoretical possibility of compliance is not enough, or the
19 theoretical ability to get documents on demand.

20 And so, again, we think in these types of cases, and
21 clearly under the Ninth Circuit law, the Court --

22 **THE COURT:** You need to slow down.

23 **MS. STEVENSON:** Sorry.

24 The Court has got to point to what is the legal right, the
25 legal right that exists outside of this lawsuit to go get those

1 documents. And we -- it's not found in the magistrate's order,
2 and it wasn't just found in my colleague's answer.

3 **THE COURT:** Okay. You want to respond, or not?

4 **MR. HALPERIN:** Yes, Your Honor.

5 **THE COURT:** She's saying that you haven't identified
6 the legal right. So what is the legal right?

7 **MR. HALPERIN:** The legal right is the right to manage
8 litigation on behalf of the State, to control litigation and to
9 represent these agencies in the course of defending themselves
10 against issues that come up, legal issues that come up in the
11 state. And that's again and again what courts have looked at,
12 *Generic, Freyre, Board of Shelby County, Tennessee, In Re:*
13 *Generic* and *Raoul* have looked to those -- that very specific
14 fact and said that establishes a legal right applying the same
15 standard.

16 **THE COURT:** So why isn't that good enough?

17 **MS. STEVENSON:** Because, Your Honor, he's still not
18 pointing to any specific legal right. If you were to tell me
19 what should I go do, if an agency says no --

20 **THE COURT:** If your -- if you as -- if the State of
21 Colorado receives a hundred million dollars as a result of
22 this, this doesn't go to -- that doesn't go to the AG. Right?
23 It goes to the state.

24 **MS. STEVENSON:** It goes to the general fund, correct.

25 **THE COURT:** Correct. And all of those agencies

1 benefit.

2 **MS. STEVENSON:** Potentially. They have no right to
3 benefit.

4 And I think you're raising an important point, which is
5 that the -- as distinguished from some of the cases he's
6 talking about, in this case we have no agencies that are
7 parties, with the exception of two states that can talk about
8 that. They didn't participate in the investigation of this
9 case. We're not seeking any relief on their behalf. They're
10 not entitled to any relief. They don't participate in any of
11 the risk of this lawsuit. They don't fund the lawsuit with
12 money or resources.

13 These are actions brought exclusively in the -- within the
14 powers of the attorneys general in their consumer protection
15 enforcement capacity.

16 **THE COURT:** So do I understand it, then, that if the
17 Attorney General chooses to investigate an agency, they can't
18 collect documents?

19 **MS. STEVENSON:** They could, Your Honor, but the
20 Attorney General would have to have a reason to investigate an
21 agency, which is absent here. And that --

22 **THE COURT:** Is there any Attorney General
23 representative in this courtroom that could not obtain
24 documents from an agency if they were investigating that
25 agency? If so, could you please rise and come to the

1 microphone. None?

2 All right. The record will reflect that no one has come
3 to a microphone.

4 So an Attorney General has the right, the ability and the
5 power to obtain documents from an agency that it chooses to
6 investigate. That's what I understand.

7 Well, come forward. Don't raise your hand.

8 All right. If you'll please stand to the side so that --
9 I've got two people who want to speak.

10 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Your Honor, Clark Kirkland for the
11 State of South Carolina.

12 The State of South Carolina --

13 **THE COURT:** Hold on. Hold on.

14 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** Clark Kirkland?

16 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. You have a very heavy accent, so I
18 had to find your name on my list.

19 Go ahead, Mr. Kirkland.

20 **MR. KIRKLAND:** There is no statutory authority in the
21 state of South Carolina that gives the Attorney General the
22 right to walk into a state agency and just ask for the
23 documents without legal compulsion.

24 **THE COURT:** Without what?

25 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Without legally compelling them to

1 through some kind of motion.

2 **THE COURT:** So what process do you use? Do you issue
3 a subpoena?

4 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor. The Attorney
5 General's office, in at least the Consumer Protection Division,
6 has the ability to issue --

7 **THE COURT:** Not in -- I'm asking any attorney general
8 in the office. Do not give me a division.

9 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Okay. The Attorney General does not
10 have the ability to just go demand documents from a state
11 agency. There is not a statutory mechanism that allows us to
12 do that. Under the South Carolina Constitution, each -- which,
13 I can bring up the exact section, each agency has been labeled
14 separately and apart forever. That is Section --

15 **THE COURT:** No, just -- I don't need -- is it -- did
16 you give that information to Judge Kang?

17 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Um ...

18 **THE COURT:** Did you identify that statute for him?

19 **MR. KIRKLAND:** We did not identify that particular --

20 **THE COURT:** Why not?

21 **MR. KIRKLAND:** I do not have an answer for that, Your
22 Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** Well, why haven't you waived it, then?

24 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Um, well, I believe Your Honor asked
25 for oral arguments today on --

1 **THE COURT:** Yeah, but didn't you waive it?

2 I am here. He has spent hundreds of hours on this topic.
3 He asked you for information. The standard of review here is
4 different. I am asking you why you didn't give him that
5 information.

6 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Uh, Your Honor, we gave the most
7 pertinent information, which is our statute that explicitly
8 forbids us in this particular case from obtaining documents
9 from the state agencies.

10 **THE COURT:** Why is this particular case relevant to
11 control?

12 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Your Honor, because Section 59.16 of
13 the South Carolina Code says: "When the Attorney General
14 institutes or defendants an action on behalf of the State of
15 South Carolina," which is the case here, "pursuant to any power
16 granted by the common law, the Constitution of South Carolina
17 or the South Carolina laws, he acts in the interest of the --
18 he acts in the public interest of the state of South Carolina
19 and not as the legal representative or attorney of any
20 department or agency of state government, including the
21 executive, legislative, judicial branches or boards.

22 "Departments, agencies or boards are not parties to these
23 actions, and the documents or electronically stored of
24 information of such departments, agencies or boards are not in
25 the possession, custody or control of the Attorney General."

1 And we did cite to that as our main argument.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. Response --

3 **MR. HALPERIN:** Yes, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** -- from South Carolina.

5 **MR. HALPERIN:** Possession, custody or control is a
6 matter of federal law. South Carolina can't legislate that it
7 doesn't meet a federal standard. The -- as Magistrate Judge
8 Kang found, it's for him to decide, applying the *Citric Acid*
9 test, whether South Carolina possesses -- has possession,
10 custody or control.

11 Judge Kang found, looking at the statutes, that South
12 Carolina represents the agencies in question, just like the
13 many other states he addressed, and said there's privilege
14 issues here, they've told me they may assert privilege. He
15 said, they've told me they may represent the agencies, and
16 based on a totality of factors, I find they have possession,
17 custody or control, regardless of whether the South Carolina
18 legislature tries to get its way around that test.

19 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Your Honor, if I may?

20 **THE COURT:** You may.

21 **MR. KIRKLAND:** So in Judge Kang's ruling, in almost
22 eight pages of South Carolina analysis he does not mention
23 Section 59.16 at all, and that language controls here.

24 And on page 219 of ECF 117 -- 1117, he states: "There is
25 no statutory, legal or administrative rule cited which

1 prohibits the South Carolina Attorney General from accessing
2 the documents of the state agency at issue." He specifically
3 says there is no statutory, legal or administrative rule cited.
4 And that was our main argument, was the state law that is clear
5 on its face that we do not have custody, possession, control of
6 their documents.

7 **THE COURT:** Any other response?

8 **MR. HALPERIN:** Yes, Your Honor.

9 He has an entire section at the outset of his order where
10 he says the federal standard governs, I need to apply *Citric*
11 *Acid*. And so that is directly responsive to the specific
12 statute, and I can get you that page if you give me a moment,
13 Your Honor.

14 **MR. KIRKLAND:** And, Your Honor --

15 **THE COURT:** So why --

16 **MR. KIRKLAND:** To apply the *Citric* --

17 **THE COURT:** Stop.

18 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Okay.

19 **THE COURT:** It is my prerogative to interrupt you.

20 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, ma'am. Yes, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** Why is it, in your view, that the federal
22 standard doesn't control?

23 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Your Honor, it's not our position that
24 the federal standard doesn't control. We agree under Rule 34
25 you look for legal control and access of these documents.

1 Judge Kang's order looks at other state statutes in other state
2 cases that are older than the act that I am mentioning. Those
3 cases have been abrogated by this act, which he does not
4 analyze at all.

5 It is a common principle of the legal field that if a
6 legislature disagrees with court rulings on the subject, that
7 they can legislate --

8 **THE COURT:** What is the date the act?

9 **MR. KIRKLAND:** The current act is 2023-2024, and it's
10 the South Carolina Appropriations Act. It's cited in our
11 briefings.

12 And on top of that, you know, he looks at other state law
13 to get to the control test and he ignores this law. You can't
14 find legal control under some state law and ignore the most
15 pertinent and controlling factor on it. And this did come
16 after the *Purdue* and *Generics* rulings that they cite to.

17 And I'd further argue that --

18 **THE COURT:** So back to my original question. If
19 you're -- if the Attorney General is investigating an agency,
20 do they have to -- what do they have to do to get documents?

21 **MR. KIRKLAND:** We would have to issue some kind of
22 legal process, whether it be a civil investigative demand, or a
23 Rule 45 subpoena, or something like that.

24 **THE COURT:** So, so if you could do a civil
25 investigative demand, that's what? Tell me what that is. It's

1 a letter, isn't it?

2 **MR. KIRKLAND:** It is a statutory mechanism for --
3 with demanding documents, similar to discovery in another case.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. So you could issue a letter that
5 says, we have authority to come in and get these documents, and
6 then you go on and get the documents. Right? Am I right? Yes
7 or no.

8 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor, but -- yes.

9 **THE COURT:** Okay. So that's different than filing a
10 lawsuit, filing an indictment, issuing a subpoena.

11 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Your Honor, that is a legal right, but
12 they would have their own counsel who would be opposed to us on
13 that who would then defend that action, and we still would not
14 just be --

15 **THE COURT:** It's not an action if you're sending them
16 a letter.

17 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Well, to enforce it you have to file
18 an action. It's like if they don't comply, the next step is to
19 file an action.

20 **THE COURT:** If you don't comply.

21 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** But in the first instance have you -- how
23 long have you been with the AG's office?

24 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Almost nine years, Your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. Have you ever issued one of those

1 letters?

2 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor. We --

3 **THE COURT:** Have you ever had to file a lawsuit to
4 get them to comply, ever?

5 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Your Honor, I'm unaware of any
6 instance where the South Carolina Attorney General filed an
7 action to compel discovery with its investigative demands.

8 **THE COURT:** So they just produce documents based upon
9 your letter to them. Correct?

10 **MR. KIRKLAND:** In many cases.

11 **THE COURT:** You've never had to file a lawsuit to
12 compel them to respond. Correct?

13 **MR. KIRKLAND:** Yes, Your Honor. I'm not aware of any
14 cases of that.

15 **THE COURT:** All right. Who are you?

16 (To Ms. Stevenson:) No, sit down.

17 Who are you?

18 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor. Josh
19 Olszewski-Jubelirer for the People of the State of California.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay. Go ahead.

21 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Just at the outset, Your
22 Honor, I wanted to say the order does not rely in its reasoning
23 on the ability of state attorneys general to investigate state
24 agencies, to issue civil investigative demands or investigative
25 subpoenas. Meta never raised this argument. There is no

1 showing by Meta that any of these --

2 **THE COURT:** Can you answer my original question?

3 When I got to the mic, when I asked if there was anybody who
4 had been denied the opportunity to get documents, what happens
5 in California?

6 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor --

7 **THE COURT:** Have you ever had to file a lawsuit to
8 get documents as the AG investigating a department? Yes or no.

9 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, I -- I --

10 **THE COURT:** Yes or no?

11 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** I have not investigated a
12 department at the Attorney General's office.

13 **THE COURT:** Well, that's the question pending. Sit
14 down.

15 Who are you?

16 **MR. COSTA:** Ryan Costa on behalf of the Delaware
17 Attorney General's office.

18 Regarding your specific question, we have a statute, a
19 specific statute, where -- it's Title 29 of the Delaware Code,
20 Section 2508(b).

21 **THE COURT:** Hold on. I don't see you on this -- oh,
22 Ryan Costa?

23 **MR. COSTA:** Costa, yes.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. Go ahead.

25 **MR. COSTA:** Okay. Title 29 of Delaware Code, Section

1 2508(b) provides that in certain circumstances such as an
2 investigation, we do have, the Attorney General does have
3 access to state agency and official documents and records.
4 However, there's a specific exception that says that: "The
5 Attorney General shall not have the right of access for
6 purposes of discovery, and any civil actions" --

7 **THE COURT:** You need to slow down.

8 **MR. COSTA:** I apologize, Your Honor.

9 It says that: "The Attorney General shall not have the
10 right of access for purposes of discovery in any civil actions
11 brought by or in relation of the Attorney General."

12 **THE COURT:** And did you raise that issue with Judge
13 Kang?

14 **MR. COSTA:** We did, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** You cited that code section?

16 **MR. COSTA:** Yes. That was the focus, the primary
17 focus of our argument in the --

18 **THE COURT:** All right. A response on Delaware.

19 **MR. HALPERIN:** Yes, Your Honor.

20 Judge Kang specifically addressed that statute and said
21 that the Attorney General was misreading it, relying
22 specifically on the second sentence of the statute that had to
23 be read in tandem with the first sentence of the statute, which
24 gave the Attorney General the, quote, "right of access at all
25 times to the books, papers, records and other documents of any

1 officer, department, board, agency, instrumentality or
2 commission of the state government." And he said when you read
3 those two in tandem, there's actually a statute that gives the
4 Attorney General the exact right to do what we're asking them
5 to do in this case.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. A response?

7 **MR. COSTA:** Yes, Your Honor.

8 Respectfully, we believe that the magistrate judge
9 fundamentally misreads the statute. We believe it's clear that
10 we do not have that --

11 **THE COURT:** Okay. So, again, moving back to the
12 standard.

13 **MR. COSTA:** Yes.

14 **THE COURT:** Is there a Supreme Court case in Delaware
15 that disagrees with his opinion?

16 **MR. COSTA:** The --

17 **THE COURT:** There is or there isn't. Is there or
18 not?

19 **MR. COSTA:** It's slightly more complicated, because
20 the statute also was just passed in 2022. So the answer is,
21 no, there's not a Supreme Court case addressing or interpreting
22 this statute.

23 **THE COURT:** Is there any court of appeal decision
24 that indicates that his interpretation is wrong and contrary to
25 law?

1 **MR. COSTA:** There is not. But the General Assembly,
2 when it passed the statute, provided a bill synopsis that
3 describes their legislative intent in adopting the statute.

4 **THE COURT:** And have you read former-Justice Scalia's
5 view of statutory interpretation and his view of legislative
6 history?

7 **MR. COSTA:** I am familiar with Justice Scalia's view
8 of legislative history; however --

9 **THE COURT:** The words are the words, right?

10 **MR. COSTA:** What's that?

11 **THE COURT:** The words are the words.

12 **MR. COSTA:** If they are plain and unambiguous. And
13 we believe they are plain and unambiguous to not -- to cut off
14 any right of access that we have. But the legislature, the
15 General Assembly, published, made a public record at the time
16 they adopted this statute, saying that their purpose "was to
17 intend to ensure that state agencies, departments, boards,
18 officers, instrumentalities and commissions will have the
19 discovery protections afforded to nonparties in such litigation
20 by applicable rules of civil procedure or state or federal rule
21 or law."

22 **THE COURT:** So my question to you is the same as the
23 other: Has the Attorney General ever in the state of Delaware
24 investigated an agency? And if so, were they able to get
25 documents?

1 **MR. COSTA:** My answer to that question is that the
2 statute actually explicitly provides that in the case of an
3 investigation --

4 **THE COURT:** Well, this was in 2022, before 2022.

5 **MR. COSTA:** The language regarding us having access,
6 that preexisted 2022. The first sentence of 2508(b) preexisted
7 2022. And after some of the cases cited by Meta, like *Purdue*,
8 after we went through that experience, the General Assembly
9 decided in response to pass an amendment to 2508(b) to adopt
10 this --

11 (Reporter clarificaiton.)

12 **MR. COSTA:** It was an amendment to 29 Delaware Code,
13 Section 2508(b) that was passed in 2022, and that was the
14 amendment that added the language, the second sentence that
15 cuts off our right of access.

16 **THE COURT:** Prior to 2022, it was pretty clear that
17 this would have been answered the way Judge Kang answered it,
18 and what you're saying is, well, the legislature didn't like
19 that, so they added some statutory language to eliminate or to
20 protect their agencies from discovery.

21 That's what I hear you saying.

22 **MR. COSTA:** Our office would not agree that it was
23 clear prior to 2022, but we concede that there were some cases.
24 We believe there are other cases that go the opposite way, but
25 there are some cases, like *Purdue*, that found in a similar way

1 to Judge Kang, Magistrate Judge Kang. And in response to that,
2 the Delaware General Assembly passed this statute to address
3 the issue specifically.

4 **THE COURT:** And, once again, the Attorney General
5 doesn't have -- if it's doing its own investigation, it has
6 access to documents. Correct? That's what I also understand
7 you saying.

8 **MR. COSTA:** In accordance with the first section of
9 the statute.

10 **THE COURT:** So the answer to my question is "yes"?

11 **MR. COSTA:** Yes, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you.

13 Next.

14 **MR. PROVAZZA:** Good morning, Your Honor. Stephen
15 Provazza on behalf of the State of Rhode Island.

16 I want to be clear that I -- I'm unaware of what happens
17 in the criminal division. We also have a criminal prosecution
18 division which we're walled off from. But in terms of our
19 civil division, we cannot access agency documents absent a
20 demand. And I think my brother, Mr. Kirkland from South
21 Carolina, mentioned a CID, a civil investigative demand. If we
22 were to ask for agency documents as part of an investigation,
23 we would have to issue that type of demand.

24 **THE COURT:** Right. And --

25 **MR. PROVAZZA:** But it has to be tied --

1 **THE COURT:** So demand is a letter.

2 **MR. PROVAZZA:** Well, Your Honor, it has to be a
3 letter that is signed by agency counsel that meets a certain
4 legal standard, that we believe it's in the public interest to
5 make an investigation about a potential violation of law. And
6 so we have to make sure we meet that standard before we issue
7 it, and --

8 **THE COURT:** And I take that under Rule 11, when you
9 signed onto this complaint seeking hundreds of millions of
10 dollars from this defendant, or these defendants, that you
11 believed you had an adequate basis for it, and you also
12 believed that the State was entitled to recover hundreds of
13 millions of dollars on those representations. Is that correct?

14 **MR. PROVAZZA:** Well, that is correct, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay. So you thought you had a basis for
16 it in the first instance?

17 **MR. PROVAZZA:** Yes, Your Honor.

18 And I -- and if our office was to issue a civil
19 investigative demand, which we call -- it's another word for an
20 administrative subpoena, that would have -- we would have to
21 sign it, and we have to --

22 **THE COURT:** All right.

23 **MR. PROVAZZA:** -- verify we meet a certain legal
24 standard. And absent --

25 **THE COURT:** So have you ever been refused documents?

1 **MR. PROVAZZA:** So we -- we've -- we've been
 2 refused -- we've never had to go to court to enforce a civil
 3 investigative demand against a state agency in my four years at
 4 the office.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. What else do you want to say?

6 **MR. PROVAZZA:** If there's not a legal mechanism for
 7 us to ask for documents, for example under a consumer
 8 protection act, under our Rhode Island antitrust act, we just
 9 can't issue a civil investigative demand unless it's tied to an
 10 actual violation of law. So we can't -- it has to be tied to a
 11 legal mechanism.

12 And that's all for now, Your Honor.

13 **MR. CHAND:** Good morning, Your Honor. Kashif Chand
 14 from the New Jersey Division of Law.

15 **THE COURT:** Actually, hold on. I didn't give you an
 16 opportunity to respond on Rhode Island.

17 Mr. Provazza, go ahead. Any response?

18 **MR. JACKSON:** Thank you, Your Honor. Gavin Jackson
 19 for the Meta defendants.

20 I would just flag, I think that you are making the correct
 21 analysis looking to whether the State has other means by which
 22 to obtain these documents, and I would simply note that the
 23 State of Rhode Island, in its brief, points to a *Rhode Island*
 24 v. *BTTR*. And as we flagged in our opposition that this is an
 25 unpublished and unreported oral order handed down by the Rhode

1 Island Superior Court.

2 And in looking at that transcript and the order that was
3 given, Mr. Provazza, in -- and I believe it was Mr. Provazza as
4 counsel for the State of Rhode Island in that *BTTR* case, when
5 the superior court judge indicated that he may be likely to
6 quash a subpoena that was served by the Rhode Island Attorney
7 General on the DMV, Mr. Provazza indicated that he believed he
8 had, quote, other mechanisms by which he could obtain those
9 documents, including by a civil investigatory demand, by simply
10 sending a letter to a state agency requesting those documents.
11 And he repeatedly, Mr. Provazza repeatedly flagged to the
12 superior court judge in that case that should the motion to
13 quash be granted, he would seek permission from the judge or at
14 least flag for the judge that he would seek those documents via
15 those other means, either via letter simply requesting that
16 information, as you previously flagged, Your Honor, or a civil
17 investigatory demand, again, as we've heard a little bit about
18 today.

19 **MR. PROVAZZA:** And so that is a great example, Your
20 Honor, of a case where we issued a third-party subpoena, a
21 Rule -- under Rhode Island civil procedure to the DMV to get
22 records regarding a defendant. The defendant moved to quash.
23 The Court granted the motion to quash as to six of the nine
24 requests in our third-party subpoena. And as I notified the
25 judge in that instance, our office can either issue a CID to

1 get those documents, or there's a -- by letter, there is a
2 process under the federal law regarding driver privacy,
3 information privacy for vehicle registrations, and we can fill
4 out a form that's available to the public and every private
5 counsel to request information that's related to a case.

6 The judge in that case instructed that should we obtain
7 any information through those other means, that we would not --
8 he caused that he would not like us to use that information
9 during the case without filing a further motion to allow that
10 information to be used in a deposition or for purposes of the
11 case. I think that's a good example where we were denied
12 access to documents we thought were necessary to prosecute our
13 own claims and then denied the ability to use those as part of
14 the case.

15 **MR. JACKSON:** Your Honor, we would simply note that
16 the point is that Mr. Provazza appeared confident in that
17 hearing that he could obtain those documents simply by
18 requesting the agency, and we think that that meets the right
19 to obtain test as outlined in Judge Kang's lengthy order.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

21 **MR. PROVAZZA:** Thank you, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** New Jersey. Kashif Chand?

23 **MR. CHAND:** Thank you, Your Honor. Kashif Chand on
24 behalf of the New Jersey Division of Law, on behalf of
25 plaintiffs Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General for the State

1 of New Jersey, and state agency Division of Consumer Affairs.

2 Your Honor, to address your question initially, we, under
3 the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, have subpoena power to
4 investigate other agencies or other entities that may have been
5 in violation of the law. That requires us to, to the extent
6 that we wanted to enforce that document request, that subpoena,
7 we would need to issue a subpoena. We could issue letters and
8 requests --

9 **THE COURT:** That's one division.

10 **MR. CHAND:** Yes?

11 **THE COURT:** That's one division. Do you have
12 information with respect to all divisions of the Attorney
13 General?

14 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

15 With regards to how New Jersey is structured, the New
16 Jersey Attorney General only supervises the Division of Law and
17 Public Safety. He does have the legal statutory authority to
18 counsel other agencies, but that authority is separate and
19 apart from his enforcement authority under the New Jersey
20 Consumer Fraud Act. That authority only gives him the right to
21 obtain documents related to the issues and his enforcement of
22 the Consumer Fraud Act. It does not give him the ability to
23 simultaneously request documents from agencies that are adverse
24 in those actions.

25 So to the extent that, you know, you had adverse agencies

1 or agencies that are being regulated by agency -- other
2 agencies, he does not have simultaneous authority to request or
3 demand those documents.

4 He also sits as a --

5 **THE COURT:** So --

6 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

7 **THE COURT:** -- the AG in New Jersey cannot go to an
8 agency and get documents if they're -- if they believe it's
9 appropriate?

10 **MR. CHAND:** To the extent that there is authority in
11 terms of his different roles as an enforcer, if there is a
12 violation of the Act, he would be able to get documents through
13 that subpoena power in New Jersey under the Consumer Fraud Act.
14 That's NJSA 56:8-4, 5 and 6.

15 **THE COURT:** And is anything that you're telling me
16 new?

17 **MR. CHAND:** Well, I would like to --

18 **THE COURT:** Yes or no. Is anything that you've just
19 told me new information, or did you give all of this --

20 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, the --

21 **THE COURT:** -- information to Judge Kang?

22 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, the information related to the
23 statutory authority to issue a subpoena is new information
24 here.

25 **THE COURT:** Why didn't you tell Judge Kang?

1 **MR. CHAND:** The focus was on the legal right to
 2 documents, and we focused our brief on information relating to
 3 the conflicts of interest. And within those documents we cited
 4 to -- we cited to comment -- letters from and directives from
 5 prior attorney generals, which sets forth our conflicts
 6 analysis. The May 14, 2019, letter from AG Grewal, which sets
 7 forth how we address conflicts when you do have adverse
 8 agencies regulating other agencies or where there's a conflict
 9 between agencies. The way New Jersey is set up is the Attorney
 10 General is appointed; he is not elected. He sits as a coequal
 11 cabinet-level excessive of the cabinet. And so in that way he
 12 does not have the right to demand documents from other coequal
 13 cabinet members.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. A response on New Jersey.

15 **MR. YEUNG:** So just to address that point, in the --
 16 (Reporter clarification.)

17 **MR. YEUNG:** Sorry. Chris Yeung from Covington &
 18 Burling representing Meta.

19 One point. The AG in New Jersey actually stipulated to
 20 provide agency documents in the *Generic* case. So if they
 21 wanted to do it, they could.

22 The remaining arguments here have all been considered by
 23 Judge Kang. What I hear is actually just a disagreement with
 24 how he analyzed the so-called dual role, that the AG may play
 25 enforcer and adviser. Judge Kang went quite in depth on that

1 point in his decision and just I think simply disagrees with
2 what New Jersey has said.

3 **THE COURT:** With respect to the dual role analysis
4 done by Judge Kang, is there a Supreme Court opinion of New
5 Jersey to the contrary?

6 **MR. CHAND:** No, Your Honor, but --

7 **THE COURT:** So I just need --

8 **MR. CHAND:** -- there is Supreme Court --

9 **THE COURT:** I am going to let you speak. I need you
10 to focus on my question. Okay? Is there any court of appeal
11 decision in New Jersey that specifically is contrary to what
12 Judge Kang indicated?

13 **MR. CHAND:** Not that I am aware of, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. Now, you can tell me what you'd
15 like.

16 **MR. CHAND:** I would just like to -- the way the New
17 Jersey Supreme Court has defined what New Jersey government is,
18 is to describe it as so varied, so multi-faceted, so extensive
19 that to regard it as one unitary monolithic client is
20 unrealistic, and effectively Judge Kang's order does that.

21 **THE COURT:** What case is that, and was it cited to
22 Judge Kang?

23 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor. This is the In Re:
24 Advisory Comment on Professional Ethics, Opinion 621.

25 **THE COURT:** Opinion 621?

1 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** So is that ...

3 **MR. CHAND:** It's an ethical opinion. The --

4 **THE COURT:** So it's not a court case.

5 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** And it's not -- and it's ...

7 Okay. So the Supreme Court actually didn't view this. A
8 subcommittee of the Court giving ethical opinions issued an
9 opinion? Is that like one judge?

10 **MR. CHAND:** The Supreme Court reviewed an opinion
11 that was coming out of the ethical body in New Jersey, which
12 was looking at a part-time legislative associate --

13 **THE COURT:** How many Supreme Court justices are there
14 on the New Jersey Supreme Court?

15 **MR. CHAND:** I believe there are nine.

16 **THE COURT:** And is there a nine-person, nine-judge
17 opinion that indicates, that states what it is you just said a
18 few minutes ago?

19 **MR. CHAND:** Not that I'm aware of, Your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** All right. So this is -- this is some --
21 okay. It's some committee opinion.

22 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** So it has no binding effect. That's why
24 it's called an opinion?

25 **MR. CHAND:** Yes, Your Honor. That's accurate.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. Next.

2 **MR. WHELIHAN:** Good morning, Your Honor. Nathan
3 Whelihan on behalf of the Arizona Attorney General's office.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. Hold on. Let me find you. Nathan
5 Whelihan, W-h-e-l-i-h-a-n?

6 **MR. WHELIHAN:** (Nods head.)

7 **THE COURT:** Okay. Go ahead.

8 **MR. WHELIHAN:** Your Honor, to answer your initial
9 question of whether our office has the ability to obtain
10 documents from agencies, I'll try to answer the question in its
11 entirety. But first for the Civil Division, our ability to
12 issue civil investigative demands, CID's, is predicated by
13 statute on the -- we have to have a reasonable belief that
14 there's a violation of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act for us to
15 issue those subpoenas. We can -- excuse me, CID's. We can't
16 issue CIDs to the Department of Education because we sued Meta.

17 **THE COURT:** So, again, though, in any event it's a
18 letter, right?

19 **MR. WHELIHAN:** What's that?

20 **THE COURT:** These are letters that you send asking
21 for documents?

22 **MR. WHELIHAN:** Yes, letters with specific demands
23 saying, please produce this, please provide that.

24 **THE COURT:** And you go in and get your documents.

25 Have you ever been required to go to court to get -- to

1 get documents?

2 **MR. WHELIHAN:** I'm not aware of any instance in which
3 we've issued a CID to an agency. When we -- from the --

4 **THE COURT:** You need to slow down.

5 **MR. WHELIHAN:** Sorry.

6 In the civil context, you know, in my experience with the
7 office, I've issued public records requests to agencies and
8 been told no, and then we have to decide whether or not we want
9 to sue over public records laws, you know. The -- and we have
10 that ability here. You know, we could issue public records
11 requests to these agencies, but so far we've been relying on
12 voluntary cooperation.

13 You know, of course in the criminal context there are
14 times when the Attorney General can, if it believes there's a
15 criminal violation, investigate the agency, issue subpoenas,
16 get documents, bring charges. Certainly there is that ability.
17 But in the civil context, we -- I can't issue a CID to the
18 Department of Education. I can't -- you know, I'm relying on
19 their cooperation. I don't have a mechanism by which I can
20 compel them, and Meta has pointed to no mechanism by which.

21 And another thing. In Arizona, the Attorney General
22 doesn't have -- the Attorney General's authority is purely
23 statutory. We have no parens patriae authority. It arrises --
24 we -- you know, this was all put in the briefing.

25 **THE COURT:** He's not hearing you because you're

1 talking so fast you're getting muffled.

2 **MR. WHELIHAN:** Sorry.

3 We don't have parens patriae authority in Arizona. We
4 cited this in the briefing in the oral argument six months ago
5 to Judge Kang.

6 You know, meta simply hasn't pointed to the mechanism by
7 which we could go get documents from these agencies. And, you
8 know, so we have to hope that they cooperate with us. And if
9 they stop cooperating with us, we're gonna rely on an order
10 from Judge Kang to somehow hope to force them to do it? Just
11 threaten them with sanctions? You know, we're not really sure.
12 We're ...

13 **THE COURT:** Okay. Any response?

14 **MR. CARPENTER:** Very briefly. Ansel Carpenter for
15 the Meta defendants.

16 First, I think it's important to note, Arizona is one of
17 the states that a federal court a few years ago already ordered
18 to turn over agencies' documents. I'm not aware of those
19 agencies' noncompliance as a result of the order in that case.

20 In addition, I believe I heard my friend say that they
21 would have to rely on public records requests. I think Judge
22 Kang rejected that in his order, and there's no clear error in
23 that analysis that I saw the AGs try to raise. We're relying
24 and Judge Kang relied on much broader authorities than what
25 Arizona's counsel just referred to, the statutes in Arizona

1 that provide that the Attorney General is the exclusive legal
2 officer for the agencies we're talking about here.

3 The -- just two other quick points, if I could.

4 The first is that Arizona just disclaimed any parens
5 patriae authority. I'm not sure that quite adds up, because in
6 this case, under the federal COPPA statute states can only
7 bring COPPA claims as parens patriae.

8 This last point I would make is that in this appeal to
9 Your Honor, Arizona's really narrowed the issue to only two
10 agencies. We think they've waived any other state-specific
11 arguments aside from all of the states' common arguments. With
12 those two agencies, we think we explained in our briefing why
13 they're no different from the others, although I'm obviously
14 happy to answer any of the Court's questions on that point.

15 **MR. WHELIHAN:** I can address all that now if you
16 would like, Your Honor, but ...

17 **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

18 **MR. WHELIHAN:** So first of all, there were a couple
19 of mischaracterizations there. The statute, as we pointed out
20 multiple times, you know, we are not the exclusive legal
21 provider for the agencies at issue here, particularly to the
22 two that we are particularly challenging. We are not -- in no
23 way waive our argument as to the four agencies over which we
24 found control that we -- which the order found that we have
25 control, that we are not specifically challenging our

1 state-specific section. We fully join the general argument
2 that will be presented here, but we decided to use our limited
3 allotment of space to argue in the alternative if Your Honor
4 disagrees with the general proposition that, you know,
5 representation equals control, or if Your Honor is inclined to
6 agree with that proposition.

7 **THE COURT:** Is there any Supreme Court authority or
8 any court of appeal authority in Arizona that indicates that
9 the decision of Judge Kang was wrong? That is, explicitly did
10 he make a decision that is contrary to a citeable decision by
11 the Supreme Court or the court of appeal in Arizona?

12 **MR. WHELIHAN:** There is no decision. What we are
13 arguing is contrary to fact, contrary to the reality in
14 Arizona, is the fact that we do not represent two of the six
15 agencies over which he found us to have control.

16 **THE COURT:** And let me -- let's make sure, because
17 the line's getting longer and longer, and you all paid for your
18 flights to come to lovely Oakland, so I understand you want to
19 speak.

20 I understand that this is difficult, hence the 285-page
21 decision. I understand that it may represent some challenges.
22 But if there is -- it is not clear to me that anyone has a
23 decision from a Supreme Court or of a court of appeal from your
24 state that says anything that this is contrary to law. And,
25 you know, the reality is that we should have never gotten here.

1 You all should have figured out a process.

2 The states are suing these defendants for hundreds of
3 millions of dollars that you want to go into the states'
4 covers, and we've got a nice, efficient, streamlined approach
5 for you to use so that you don't have 35 of these cases
6 progressing in various other places, and you will have your day
7 in court, and perhaps you will get hundreds of millions of
8 dollars into your coffers. And yet you want this to be
9 one-sided.

10 So in the past parties have figured this out. They have
11 figured out a process to make the -- to make this more fair,
12 and for whatever reason you chose not to do it. So when you
13 come up here -- and you just happen to be here, Mr. Whelihan,
14 and I'm looking beyond you -- when you come up here, the first
15 thing I want to know is, is there a Supreme Court decision or a
16 court of appeal decision that you cited to Judge Kang that said
17 that what -- was contrary to what he decided. I suspect that
18 none of you will be able to answer that in the affirmative
19 because he's a very good judge, and he tried to figure out a
20 way to resolve this problem for you all that you could not
21 resolve on your own.

22 Next.

23 **MR. WHELIHAN:** Yes, Your Honor. If I could address a
24 couple of points.

25 First, the states' coffers issue. In Arizona, the money

1 that would be recovered from this would go into consumer
2 protection funds that we use to fund our own office. Our
3 office is severely underfunded, and we rely on that. We would
4 have to cut multiple positions in our criminal divisions and
5 other places if we didn't get -- if we didn't regularly bring
6 enough money to fund our own office. And I, in oral arguments
7 I made that clear to Judge Kang six months ago.

8 Earlier, counsel for Meta also stated the *Generic Farm*
9 ruling. This is also an issue that came up in the oral
10 argument to Judge Kang six months ago. You know, in Arizona we
11 never had to comply with that order because there was a further
12 meet and confer after that order came out, and the parties in
13 the Antitrust Division, our Antitrust Division and the parties
14 in that case decided that they already had everything they
15 needed, and so no further discovery was needed. We never had
16 to do the discovery. And I told Judge Kang that, that this
17 would be an unprecedented thing in Arizona. We've never had to
18 do it before. We don't know, you know, how that would work.

19 And, you know, I -- you are correct. There is no Supreme
20 Court, no appellate court division -- decision in Arizona that
21 touches on this issue. But I have to return to the point that
22 there is also nothing besides the general statutory framework
23 that, upon request of certain agencies in Arizona, we are to
24 act as their legal counsel. We don't have a mechanism to
25 compel the production of documents from these agencies. I

1 don't believe that Meta can point to anything besides the
2 general statutory framework. I don't believe Judge Kang's
3 order points to anything besides the general statutory
4 framework.

5 And in the instance, you know, we made representations to
6 the Court clearly of the nine agencies that Meta was interested
7 in, we -- if a subpoena was sent to them, we would represent
8 four of them and we would not represent the other five. He
9 believed us on three of them, and on two of them he took our
10 representations to the Court, and he said that they were an
11 error of law because there was no clear statutory framework
12 that exempted them from the prohibition on spending state funds
13 to hire their own counsel. When we had told -- I came and told
14 Judge Kang six months ago and in briefings that, in fact, the
15 Arizona Department of Education does employ legal counsel, the
16 Rule 45 subpoena that was issued by Meta in July to the
17 Department of Education was responded to by that counsel. Up
18 and to this point, Meta has been working with the Department of
19 Education. Our office has had nothing to do with it.

20 Likewise, the Office of Strategic Planning, the Governor's
21 Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, as I told Judge
22 Kang six months ago in oral argument, is a subset of the
23 governor's office, which Judge Kang recognized that we did not
24 have control over because there is a statutory exemption for
25 them that allows them to spend state funds on their own

1 counsel. They have their own counsel. She represents -- she
2 and her colleagues represent the governor's office and the
3 Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting.

4 So, again, I would ask at the very least that Your Honor
5 overturn his ruling as to those two agencies, since we do not
6 represent them, we haven't represented them and we will not
7 represent them. And that's not because of any choice that we
8 made, it's just the reality. It's just the facts on the ground
9 in Arizona. And I know that there's not a statutory, there's
10 not the Supreme Court case, but it's just how things are, and I
11 don't think Meta has anything that they can say that would show
12 that we do represent those agencies.

13 **THE COURT:** All right. Response?

14 **MR. CARPENTER:** Thank you, Your Honor. Just two
15 quick points.

16 The first one --

17 **THE COURT:** You'll have to remind me again who you
18 are.

19 **MR. CARPENTER:** Ansel Carpenter, from Covington and
20 Burling, Your Honor.

21 Just two points.

22 The first is because counsel mentioned a
23 mischaracterization, we don't think Judge Kang mischaracterized
24 the statute. We don't think we mischar' --

25 **THE COURT:** Is Meta negotiating its subpoena with the

1 AG's office or private counsel for the Department of Energy?

2 **MR. CARPENTER:** I don't believe the Department of
3 Energy is at issue.

4 **THE COURT:** Education.

5 **MR. CARPENTER:** For the Department of Education, my
6 understanding is it is not with the Attorney General's office.

7 **THE COURT:** So that's -- he's accurately representing
8 that view.

9 **MR. CARPENTER:** He's accurately representing that
10 fact, but what Judge Kang relied on, because it was what was
11 presented to him, if the statute. So Arizona Revised Statute
12 41-192(a), which says that unless an agency is exempted, the AG
13 represents it. Then the Revised Statute 41-192(d) includes the
14 exemptions. Neither of the two agencies that we are talking
15 about are exempted. Arizona, as I believe counsel just
16 conceded, is not able to point to any other statute that
17 exempts them or any other court case that represents them. All
18 it presented to Your Honor was an organization printout from a
19 web page, I believe, for the Department of Education, and a
20 similar type of press release document from the other agency,
21 from the Office of Strategic Planning and Budget.

22 We would submit those aren't the sort of things that
23 constitute a clear error in Judge Kang's analysis of the actual
24 statutory law that applies in Arizona.

25 **THE COURT:** All right. Next state.

1 **MR. WHELIHAN:** If I could briefly respond, Your
 2 Honor?

3 **THE COURT:** Briefly.

4 **MR. WHELIHAN:** The -- we have represented to Judge
 5 Kang in oral argument six months ago, again, that there are
 6 conflicts with the Department of Education. The superintendent
 7 of the Department of Education has sued our Attorney General.
 8 There of different parties. He used to be the Attorney General
 9 of the state. There are disagreements over school vouchers,
 10 over bilingual education, over our criminal department's
 11 investigations of the Department of Education. And because of
 12 that, they don't come to us with requests for legal work. It's
 13 not by our choice. It is because, as we represented to this
 14 Court previously, there are conflicts. They do not let us
 15 represent them in these matters. When the subpoena went to
 16 them they have their own counsel.

17 I admit that the statute doesn't exempt them and that in
 18 normal times we might represent them, but these aren't normal
 19 times because of the very real and actual conflicts that exist
 20 between our office and the Department of Education. And,
 21 again, the Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting is, for
 22 all intents and purposes, a part of the government's office.

23 **THE COURT:** Next state.

24 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Good morning, Your Honor. Phil
 25 Ziperman on behalf of the Maryland Attorney General's office.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. Hold on.

2 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** No, Your Honor, there's no --

3 **THE COURT:** Hold on.

4 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I'm sorry.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. I don't show you on the list.

6 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I checked in this morning.

7 **THE COURT:** We don't check in in the morning. We
8 check in --

9 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I'm sorry.

10 **THE COURT:** -- in advance, because there are too many
11 lawyers, as you can see, in this courtroom. So ...

12 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I'm sorry, Your Honor. I'm not sure
13 what -- why I'm not on your list.

14 **THE COURT:** And then I had a list from the plaintiffs
15 that gave me all of the states who were going to have state-
16 specific argument.

17 So, Maryland?

18 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, I can speak to that.

19 To the extent that Mr. Ziperman was not on the list
20 submitted to chambers, I -- apologies. Bianca Miyata for the
21 state AGs.

22 If Mr. Ziperman was inadvertently left off of the list
23 submitted to chambers, that was my error and I apologize for
24 that.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay.

1 **MS. MIYATA:** Mr. Ziperman is on the list from this
 2 morning, but it appears that Maryland is in the name column and
 3 Philip Ziperman is in the state column, which is clearly not
 4 the case, even though Mr. Ziperman is indeed Maryland, so . . .

5 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Thank you.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. I see. I got it. Thank you.

7 All right. And it's Ziperman, Z-i-p-e-r-m-a-n.

8 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** That's right, Your Honor. We don't
 9 spell it correctly.

10 **THE COURT:** Proceed.

11 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor, to answer the question
 12 you've been asking, no, I'm unaware of any Maryland state or
 13 Fourth Circuit precedent, for that matter, that would address
 14 the situation.

15 To answer the original question you asked, Your Honor,
 16 which is whether my office has the authority to investigate
 17 another state agency, the answer is "no," and I think the logic
 18 of the question is somewhat undermined by Judge Kang's
 19 decision. Judge Kang relied primarily on argument that my
 20 office has a statutory obligation to be counsel to these
 21 Maryland agencies. We can't both be their counsel and
 22 investigate them at the same time.

23 Now, I believe the Maryland agency can impanel a grand
 24 jury, our criminal division can conduct a criminal
 25 investigation. That's not something I've ever been involved

1 in. Maryland has a state prosecutor's office that would
2 investigate state agencies.

3 If we want documents from a state agency we normally ask
4 for them. I've never been in a circumstance where we've had to
5 issue a subpoena.

6 **THE COURT:** Right. But you ask for them and you get
7 them.

8 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** In most instances. But if the -- if
9 we don't, the only mechanisms --

10 **THE COURT:** You said that you've never had to go to
11 court. So if you ask for them, you get them.

12 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor, I think that's true, but I
13 don't believe that gives us control, because if the agency says
14 no ...

15 **THE COURT:** Well, how do you know? You've never had
16 an agency say, "no."

17 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** We've had agencies that have not said
18 "yes" either. I mean, we've had situations where they didn't
19 respond to our requests and we didn't pursue it, but I don't
20 want to mislead you. In most instances, if we ask for
21 documents, the answer's "no." I mean, excuse me, the answer is
22 "yes."

23 I can tell Your Honor I met with the governor's chief of
24 staff this morning and three of their attorneys, and Maryland
25 may be one of those states where we're going to be told "no."

1 **THE COURT:** And so, then -- and we haven't gotten
2 there. Then I would have to figure out whether you can be a
3 part of this litigation. Right?

4 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor --

5 **THE COURT:** You've come to federal court, again,
6 seeking hundreds of millions of dollars. With that comes
7 responsibility. So how is it from a policy perspective that it
8 is fair that you can choose to come into a federal forum and
9 then decide you don't want to follow or comply with federal
10 rules regarding or a federal order regarding disclosure?

11 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor, we've explained to the
12 governor's office that we could face a sanction. It's not a
13 position we want to be in. We've explained to the governor's
14 office that this is an important case to both my office and to
15 Maryland consumers, but that's all we can do.

16 The other -- I'm sorry. The other points I wanted to
17 make, Your Honor, is our focus with our argument in front of
18 Judge Kang was focusing on this issue of the attorney/client
19 relationship.

20 **THE COURT:** Uh-huh.

21 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** We brought our case in the narrowest
22 capacity that it could be brought. The case was brought as the
23 Maryland Attorney General, not as the State. We specifically
24 didn't pray damages in the case, and that was a very --

25 **THE COURT:** Say that again?

1 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** We specifically did not pray any
2 damages in the case.

3 **THE COURT:** Yeah, let me take a look. Because as I
4 started looking for the prayers for relief, most AGs were
5 asking for damages. So I'll check yours.

6 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I believe that those claims have been
7 withdrawn, Your Honor. Maryland also only brought a COPPA
8 claim.

9 I'm sorry, Your Honor. I'll wait for you to check.

10 **THE COURT:** So am I wrong? All state -- have all
11 states -- Ms. Miyata, have all states withdrawn claims for
12 monetary relief?

13 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, I don't have the record cite
14 to hand, but early on in this litigation after we conferred
15 with Your Honor about the case schedule, we did represent to
16 the Court that we would not be seeking damages on behalf of the
17 state agencies, that's correct. There are requests under the
18 states' various consumer protection acts for penalties, but
19 that is not the same as damages to compensate agencies.

20 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** And for the record, Your Honor,
21 Maryland didn't bring a claim under its consumer protection
22 act.

23 **THE COURT:** Well, for some reason the prayer for
24 damages -- was Maryland -- I thought I had the most recent
25 complaint. I'm not seeing the prayer. Maybe I pulled up a

1 wrong binder.

2 All right. Go ahead.

3 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** So the focus of our argument in front
4 of Judge Kang was this separation of the office's two functions.
5 And while it's true, everything Meta says is true about
6 Maryland law, which is the Maryland Attorney General does act
7 as counsel for these various agencies, Maryland also has -- the
8 Attorney General's office has a dual role of enforcing
9 Maryland's laws, and that's what we're doing here. We didn't
10 name any Maryland agencies in the complaint.

11 I'm just going to very briefly go through what I
12 understand are the factors that all of these decisions that
13 Judge Kang relied on, rely on to name an AG as someone having
14 control over the state agency.

15 Is the state a plaintiff in the case? The answer is "no."
16 I understand they're going to argue that we have to act as a
17 parens patriae for the state under COPPA, but we brought this
18 case as the Maryland Attorney General. So even under COPPA,
19 the Maryland Attorney General is permitted to sue under COPPA.

20 Is there an agency or an agency employee that's named as a
21 party in our claim? No.

22 Are there damages sought? I've already said that: No.

23 Is there a sister corporation-type relationship between
24 the Maryland AG's office and other state agencies that Meta
25 served subpoenas on? No.

1 Is there a statute that gives Maryland's Attorney General
2 office specific access to the documents of these agencies that
3 was -- there were statutes in Ohio and Pennsylvania cited some
4 of the decisions. The answer again is "no."

5 Maryland brought this case in the narrowest capacity
6 possible with the intention of avoiding just this circumstance.

7 Now, we don't take the position that Meta isn't entitled
8 to seek these documents, although in our discussions with Meta,
9 I've got no idea what they're seeking. And particularly given
10 the fact that we're not praying damages, it seems to me that
11 much of the information they're seeking is largely irrelevant,
12 but we'll cross that bridge when they tell us what it is they
13 actually want.

14 But when they served their Rule 45 subpoenas on our
15 agencies, we cooperated. What we did is actually -- what they
16 did is they called the principal counsel for those agencies,
17 they didn't call me. Although now they're arguing that I'm the
18 attorney that represents these agencies. And if I was the
19 attorney representing these agencies, I guess I would have
20 appreciated a phone call, but we didn't get that phone call.
21 They were dealing directly with the agencies.

22 And so all we're saying, Your Honor, is, you know, we're
23 in the same position Meta's in. If we wanted these documents
24 now, we'd have to issue a Rule 45 subpoena or a public -- I
25 suppose we could ask, and it's possible --

1 **THE COURT:** I'm not sure that you're in the same
2 position. Right? You just spoke to the governor and three of
3 his aides.

4 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** You're right, Your Honor.

5 **THE COURT:** I mean, so it is not the same.

6 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** You're right.

7 I have an office. I don't have the same office as their
8 counsel. Their counsel are embedded with each of the agencies.
9 They're in a different building. But I know their names, I
10 know their phone numbers, and we have a common boss. So
11 there's a big difference. When the boss has a position on a
12 legal issue and the agency has a different position on that
13 legal issue, that AAG's loyalty is to their client, not to the
14 Attorney General.

15 And believe me, Maryland's one of those states where we
16 flip-flop Democratic and Republican governors over the years,
17 and I can't count how many times I've been to the legislature
18 to argue a point that is being countered by some of the same
19 agencies. So they're very different political animals in
20 Maryland. They're very different and separate political
21 entities. And the real concern I have is, Your Honor, is is
22 that if the governor's office -- and in their defense, they're
23 very, very concerned about setting a precedent in a legal court
24 that every time when the Attorney General brings a case, a
25 Maryland agency can be -- as a third party can be required to

1 produce documents, including documents that, Your Honor, again,
2 I don't -- this is an issue for another day, but for the life
3 of me -- we just sent Meta a letter. They served a request on
4 the Department of Commerce, and we've just sent them a letter
5 explaining the Department of Commerce's mission, which has
6 nothing to do with the privacy of kids. Again, we just brought
7 a COPPA claim, and they already searched their documents and
8 can't find anything.

9 And so to have this result where we can be penalized --

10 **THE COURT:** Well, I mean, again, that's the next --
11 that's the next bridge.

12 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Yes, Your Honor. And --

13 **THE COURT:** And the issue of sanctions is not lost on
14 me.

15 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Understood.

16 **THE COURT:** And the issue of overreach is not lost on
17 me. And so the question is where is the balance.

18 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I'm sorry, Your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** If I had -- if you had a department who
20 was -- who had records relative to COPPA investigations and you
21 didn't want to work with the defendants to produce those, I
22 might strike your complaint; that is, your version, you know,
23 your portion of it.

24 Now, if they're asking for something that has absolutely
25 nothing to do with this and you don't produce, I might say,

1 well, okay, they didn't produce, but I'm not going to issue a
 2 sanction. Sanctions must be commensurate with the issue.

3 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Well, your Honor, we're working with
 4 Meta to the fullest extent we have authority to.

5 When they issue -- so they issued Rule 45 subpoenas on
 6 each of these agencies. As I said, they contacted agency
 7 counsel. They were separately negotiating with agency counsel
 8 to limit those requests. Agency counsel was calling us and
 9 saying, what's this case all about, I have no idea. We filled
 10 them in. We sent them the discover. Excuse me, I'm jumping
 11 the gun. We can advise them, we can answer questions, and we
 12 encouraged them to comply.

13 Judge Kang issued his order. Meta has now withdrawn all
 14 of its Rule 45 subpoenas. Meta has said that they are no
 15 longer honoring any of the limitations that they were
 16 previously discussing with those agencies, and Meta has refused
 17 to talk to agency counsel. Now, they want to deal exclusively
 18 with us.

19 **THE COURT:** Why is that? Why is that? Doesn't that
 20 in fact hinder the progress of this litigation?

21 Who's going to answer the question?

22 **MR. HALPERIN:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 We held the Rule 45 subpoenas in abeyance because it was
 24 inefficient for us to keep negotiating on an agency-by-agency
 25 basis, when we had an order from the Court telling us that

1 these are parties and we should be negotiating them on a
2 state-by-state basis. We're not telling the agencies, don't
3 send us the documents that you've collected already. We've
4 simply told them we don't want to keep doing exactly what Judge
5 Kang told us would be inefficient to do, negotiate with 130
6 different agencies, when we're supposed to be negotiating with
7 a state-by-state basis.

8 **THE COURT:** Well, you may find yourself back at
9 ground zero if I do something else.

10 **MR. HALPERIN:** We understand that, Your Honor. We --

11 **THE COURT:** That's a pretty big risk.

12 (Reporter clarification.)

13 **MR. HALPERIN:** I apologize. This is Greg Halperin
14 from Covington on behalf of Meta defendants.

15 We certainly understand that. We were mindful, though,
16 Your Honor that we had a very thorough, very well-reasoned, in
17 our view, 285-page order from the Court that then the agencies
18 appealed under a Rule 72 standard. So we did take that risk,
19 Your Honor, and we understand it, but we had an order from the
20 Court saying negotiate, meet and confer with the AGs. And so
21 that's what we tried to do. The AGs said we're not interested,
22 many of them. We're not going to give you search terms. We're
23 not going to give you custodians.

24 We were back before Judge Kang yesterday, who gave the AGs
25 a deadline to do exactly that, so that we could keep this case

1 moving. And that really is what we're trying to do. Two days
2 after we got this order, we reached out to the AGs and said, we
3 want to have a conversation with you. We want to talk about
4 search terms, we want to talk about custodians, and we want to
5 hear from you if you're telling us this agency doesn't actually
6 have relevant documents. We'd like to take that back. We'd
7 like to have what normally happens at discovery, where the
8 parties meet and confer and they come to a reasonable agreement
9 on the scope of discovery.

10 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** May I, Your Honor?

11 **THE COURT:** Well, there was a much more efficient way
12 to do it than you've all chosen to do.

13 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor --

14 **THE COURT:** We're going to stand in recess for 20
15 minutes.

16 (A recess was taken from 10:57 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.)

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. We are back on the record. The
18 record will reflect the parties are present.

19 Who's up next?

20 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** I was starting to answer.

21 Your Honor, I'm not saying that Meta's not cooperating at
22 all, but the position they took, at least with Maryland, was
23 that all prior discussions are off, we're starting from scratch
24 again, and --

25 **THE COURT:** That would be a problem.

1 **MR. HALPERIN:** I'm not sure that quite accurately
2 describes the situation, Your Honor.

3 **THE COURT:** Well, perhaps. I don't want to hear it,
4 but I'm telling you it's going to be a problem.

5 **MR. HALPERIN:** Understood, Your Honor.

6 I'm happy to I think explain the situation, but we can
7 move to the next topic if you'd prefer.

8 **THE COURT:** Anything else?

9 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor, I guess I just wanted to
10 finish with the point that I understand Your Honor's questions
11 about our subpoena authority, and certainly it's true, we have
12 it. You know, the problem I have with the logic that Judge
13 Kang applied to his order is is that somehow we have control
14 because --

15 **THE COURT:** Look, I'm not saying -- you're going to
16 have to reframe the argument. In part, because I am not here
17 to decide whether I would have decided the issue differently.
18 The issue is whether you can point me to law.

19 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor, the answer is "no."

20 **THE COURT:** And that's your prob' -- and now that's a
21 problem. So what I'm left with if I disagree with the breadth
22 of what it is he has said is a problem, and -- right? So
23 there's the practical issue and there's the legal issue.

24 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Right.

25 **THE COURT:** And the legal issue is actually pretty

1 straightforward, which is I need law to show that what he did
2 is different, is contrary. Not whether I would have done it
3 differently, and perhaps I would have. Which is why I said
4 this is going to be a problem for you.

5 **MR. HALPERIN:** Understood, Your Honor.

6 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** And, Your Honor, our position is is
7 that applying the law that Judge Kang applied to the Maryland
8 circumstance where we brought the narrowest claim we could, the
9 law was applied miscorrectly, incorrectly.

10 That's it, Your Honor. Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** Except you can't cite me to a case.

12 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** No, I can't, Your Honor. There's no
13 Maryland law that says that the Maryland AG can just walk to
14 another agency, say, could you give us your documents.

15 **THE COURT:** Yeah, except you have done it in the
16 past.

17 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** But we've asked. That doesn't mean we
18 can control.

19 **THE COURT:** Next.

20 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

21 **MR. WALLACE:** Your Honor, Kevin Wallace on behalf of
22 the New York Attorney General.

23 **THE COURT:** Okay. Go ahead.

24 **MR. WALLACE:** Your Honor, I'm just going to try and
25 directly answer the questions you've asked of the various

1 states.

2 First, when the Office of the Attorney General in most
3 instances is in need of documents and information from other
4 state agencies, we issue an administrative subpoena to the
5 agencies. There are limited instances where statutory
6 authority requires state agencies to cooperate with our request
7 in investigations specifically in the New York state Martin
8 Act, which is our securities enforcement statute. That's
9 General Business Law, Section 23(a) .

10 I am not aware of any instances where we have litigated in
11 court with a agency of the State over one of our subpoenas. I
12 am aware of litigation between different state agencies, in
13 particular our Office of Comptroller and what was the
14 liquidation bureau of our state insurance department that is
15 now a different agency. But specifically to the question
16 you've been asking, for our subpoenas I am not aware of a case
17 where that has happened.

18 I am also not aware of any decision from the court of
19 appeals of the State of New York or another appellate
20 department that directly addresses this issue, although our
21 position is and was that Magistrate Kang's decision does
22 conflict with a district court decision in the Northern
23 District of New York; that is, *Boardman versus National*
24 *Railroad*, 233 F.R.D. 259. But again, not a state appellate
25 decision.

1 **THE COURT:** So district court as in federal district
2 court?

3 **MR. WALLACE:** Yes, it was the federal district court.
4 I believe it's a magistrate decision from the Northern District
5 of New York, and it is on the question of the interpretation of
6 the New York state Constitution and the same statutes that
7 Magistrate Kang was looking at.

8 I just did want to mostly take a moment to address the
9 fairness issue, and it's certainly not our position that Meta
10 should be going into summary judgment and trial without
11 discovery from the various state agencies, and, in fact, our
12 position is, just factually, is the office of the governor has
13 outside counsel and is in the process of negotiating with Meta
14 and has agreed to cooperate and produce documents if they are
15 under the rubric of a Rule 45 subpoena, and that is for eight
16 of the nine agencies that they are seeking.

17 We are working to facilitate a response from the one other
18 agency that is not part of -- that doesn't fall under this
19 umbrella for the governor's counsel. And we are, in fact, due
20 to meet and confer with Meta on Tuesday about that issue, and
21 it's the same position, that the agency will produce documents
22 under Rule 45, as opposed to conceding that the documents are
23 in our possession.

24 And I just wanted to point out that in Judge Kang's
25 decision, incorporating counsel for these state agencies is

1 perfectly consistent with what he ordered. In fact, in the
 2 last page of his decision he orders, quote, "the parties,"
 3 parens, "including counsel for the state agencies," closed
 4 parens, "are ordered to promptly meet and confer regarding a
 5 mutually agreeable and reasonable date for the state agencies
 6 to substantially complete their respective productions of
 7 documents in response to either the Rule 34 requests, or to the
 8 extent applicable, Rule 45 subpoenas."

9 And I understand from my colleagues that's New York's
 10 position, that we are now going beyond just the agencies that
 11 received Rule 45 subpoenas, and all of the agencies that
 12 they're asking for are in the process of negotiating with them.

13 **THE COURT:** Well, I've got the list for New York.
 14 Which is the one that is not?

15 **MR. WALLACE:** The Department of Education. They are
 16 independent of the governor, and so their in-house counsel are
 17 directly negotiating that and we are facilitating that
 18 conversation with Meta.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay.

20 **MR. WALLACE:** And I was just going to add for the
 21 record that I understand that all of the states are, in fact,
 22 we're cooperating with the Rule 45 subpoenas that they did
 23 receive, and we're in the process of either negotiating how the
 24 production would return or making a production.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm not sure how that comports

1 with what I just heard, that Meta has stopped discussions with
2 respect to Rule 45 subpoenas.

3 **MR. WALLACE:** I believe they were until they received
4 the letter saying, stop Rule 45, let's move to Rule 34.

5 **MR. HALPERIN:** If I may, Your Honor?

6 **THE COURT:** Who's lead on this issue? Are you lead?

7 **MR. HALPERIN:** Overall I am, Your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** And your name again?

9 **MR. HALPERIN:** Greg Halperin.

10 **THE COURT:** All right. Go ahead.

11 **MR. HALPERIN:** Your Honor, what happened was we had
12 been in the process of negotiating with certain agencies that
13 had gotten -- we prudentially served Rule 45 subpoenas during
14 the pendency of this issue with Judge Kang. For certain
15 agencies we had gotten, and it's a small number, we had gotten
16 further along in the process than others. For those agencies,
17 we told them, send us the documents you have. I'm looking at
18 an e-mail from October 4th to the State of Kentucky, where, as
19 to two agencies we said they should, quote, "produce the
20 documents that they have collected in response to the subpoenas
21 issued to them."

22 Where the conversations had progressed far enough, we
23 said, we want you to give us what you have. From many of the
24 agencies we hadn't gotten that far because it's a laborious
25 process of serving subpoenas, reaching out to counsel, they

1 have time to respond to the subpoenas. For those, where we
2 were basically at square one, we said, we now have an order
3 from Judge Kang saying negotiate state by state.

4 **THE COURT:** You still have to do the same thing.
5 It's not as if, under the federal rules, you get to issue an
6 order or you get to issue a request and it has to be complied
7 with in totality, because frequently it's overbroad. So
8 there's constant negotiation.

9 **MR. HALPERIN:** Absolutely, Your Honor. And that's
10 the negotiation we've been trying to have.

11 What we've said and what Judge Kang ordered us to do
12 yesterday is to have that conversation and that negotiation on
13 a state-by-state basis with 35 states, rather than doing it
14 with 275 separate agencies.

15 **THE COURT:** Anything else?

16 **MR. WALLACE:** Nothing from New York, Your Honor.

17 **THE COURT:** Next.

18 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, briefly on the point that
19 you were just -- Bianca Miyata for the state AGs.

20 Briefly on the Rule 45 point that Your Honor was just
21 inquiring into, I did want to provide just a tiny bit more
22 texture about that with the Court's indulgence. And that would
23 be that, you know, in the negotiations of these subpoenas, and
24 I think when the state agencies and the AGs learned that Meta
25 asked the agencies to hold those subpoenas in abeyance, we have

1 tried to confer with Meta about to what extent those requests
2 under the Rule 45 subpoenas overlapped and in part satisfied
3 what they were seeking, and with the Rule 44, to really
4 determine what work has been done and what remains and what are
5 you seeking above and in addition to that, and Meta declined to
6 have those conversations with us and his --

7 **THE COURT:** Why? Why?

8 **MR. HALPERIN:** We have done that, Your Honor. What
9 we've said is we want to do it --

10 **THE COURT:** Why did you decline to have those
11 conversations?

12 **MR. HALPERIN:** We did not decline to have those
13 conversations.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. So she's lying to me?

15 **MR. HALPERIN:** It's not inaccurate, Your Honor, that
16 we've got a different perspective as to what the first step is,
17 and we addressed that with Judge Kang yesterday. Their
18 perspective is we should go immediately to talking about the
19 specific RFPs rather than doing what was done as to Meta on the
20 defensive end, which is we have a set of RFPs, let's talk
21 globally about a set of custodians and search terms. We've had
22 a disagreement about what the right process is, not should we
23 have a process.

24 We took that to Judge Kang yesterday, and Judge Kang
25 agreed with us that the first step is they provide us

1 custodians and search terms. That happened just yesterday. We
 2 have not refused to confer with the states or the agencies, we
 3 just have a difference of opinion about the process.

4 **MS. MIYATA:** If I may respond to that just briefly,
 5 Your Honor.

6 I believe, you know, from our perspective we want to do
 7 what we can within the bounds of our authority and the bounds
 8 of our representation to make this process move further, which
 9 is why we've been trying to do this since the Rule 45 subpoenas
 10 were issued. I think if we -- starting from the perspective
 11 that we have to -- I don't want to rehash any of the disputes
 12 that we discussed about search terms and custodians yesterday,
 13 because I understand that Your Honor's time is valuable and
 14 important, and we've already had that conversation. But I
 15 think trying to gain a larger understanding of how this fits
 16 into the work that has already been done is important.

17 Our state agencies have important work to do serving the
 18 public, and they want to do this, as well, but they don't want
 19 to duplicate work. And it's difficult for them to understand
 20 and for us to understand how we can do that if the work that's
 21 been done thus far in the Rule 45 subpoenas is now to just be
 22 set to the side in favor of starting a new process negotiated
 23 with a new group of people.

24 **MR. YEUNG:** Your Honor, may it please -- Chris Yeung
 25 from Covington.

1 I've had some of these conversations that I would just
2 like to put a little bit more texture on what my colleague has
3 said.

4 Just to backtrack a little bit, of the subpoenas that
5 we've served, we've received documents for only 29 agencies.

6 After Judge Kang's order, we have proposed a process that
7 involves search terms and custodians for the states to comply
8 with the order. In the context of those discussions --

9 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

10 **THE COURT:** -- satisfied if they respond to the Rule
11 45? Doesn't that shortcut everything?

12 **MR. YEUNG:** We didn't --

13 **THE COURT:** Doesn't it shortcut everything?

14 **MR. YEUNG:** We didn't issue subpoenas to every agency
15 that was on the order, because it would -- because we didn't --
16 it's a lot of agencies. We just started the first wave.

17 And then Judge Kang's order came in, and we told the
18 states, if you want to have a discussion about the agencies,
19 let's do that in conjunction with the search terms discussions.
20 There are 20 states who have agreed to do that with us. We are
21 having those discussions.

22 As we told Judge Kang, there are 14 that want us to narrow
23 our RFPs, which have been outstanding for eight months, before
24 we even have a search term discussion. That's the process
25 dispute that we were having before Judge Kang. He's issued his

1 ruling. He's told us all to have those meet and confers
 2 together, which is what we wanted.

3 And I have personally been on meet and confer calls with
 4 representatives from 15 agencies, plus, you know -- maybe 15 is
 5 a slight overstatement. Multiple agencies, seven, eight
 6 agencies, plus the Attorney General, trying to work through
 7 these issues in at least one of the states. So we are, in
 8 fact, having those discussions with the states who have opted
 9 into the process of actually agreeing to utilize search terms
 10 and custodians.

11 So that is what's actually going on.

12 **MS. MIYATA:** And I think we can, you know, we can
 13 talk at length about the chicken-or-the-egg question of do we
 14 start by talking about the scope of the RFPs first, or do we
 15 start by proposing search terms and custodians first. Again,
 16 don't want to rehash that, but I think what I did want to
 17 represent to the Court is that I think the perception that I'm
 18 hearing from the other side is that the state agencies and the
 19 states have simply put up a stone wall and have not tried to
 20 have these conversations and tried to get them the information
 21 that they are seeking and that they are requesting, and that I
 22 believe is wholly inaccurate.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. Next state.

24 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Corinne Gilchrist on behalf of the
 25 State of Indiana.

1 Your Honor, I want to start by addressing the questions --

2 **THE COURT:** Everybody should start the way the last
3 lawyer started from New York, Mr. Wallace. Answer my questions
4 first.

5 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Yes, Your Honor.

6 There is not a Supreme Court decision directly addressing
7 the question of legal control in the manner in which Judge
8 Kang's order addressed it. There are state Supreme -- there is
9 state Supreme Court case law regarding representation and the
10 governor's authority to hire his own counsel or her own counsel
11 for responding to litigation, for engaging in litigation.

12 **THE COURT:** Was that presented to Judge Kang?

13 **MS. GILCHRIST:** It was.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay.

15 **MS. GILCHRIST:** *Holcomb v. Bray* is the case cite,
16 Your Honor.

17 And the second question that Your Honor posed to the
18 states --

19 **THE COURT:** Stop.

20 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Yes.

21 **THE COURT:** *Holcomb v. Gray*.

22 **MS. GILCHRIST:** *Bray*.

23 **THE COURT:** How did he -- did he get it right? Did
24 he get it wrong? For Meta, *Holcomb v. Bray*.

25 **MR. CARPENTER:** Oh, apologies, Your Honor. If you

1 just give me one moment to find it.

2 I'm not entirely sure if Judge Kang addressed it
 3 explicitly, but my memory of that case is that it doesn't say
 4 anything about the issue before the Court here, it's just a
 5 state-specific version of the common arguments the states have
 6 made, that there is a divided executive, and that sometimes the
 7 governor retains counsel that Attorney Generals don't. But I
 8 think Judge Kang's order and the common arguments persuasively
 9 address that issue.

10 **THE COURT:** Is that right?

11 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Your Honor, our position is that
 12 *Holcomb v. Bray* stands for the proposition that we do not
 13 represent the agencies in every circumstance, and --

14 **THE COURT:** Well, isn't that what he just said, that
 15 it is divided government?

16 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Yes. In Indiana the executive, the
 17 governor is the executive through our Constitution, and our
 18 Attorney General is statutorily created and derives our
 19 authority from the statutes.

20 So the question that magistrate judge asked the states to
 21 address in the one-page briefing on this issue for the state-
 22 by-state specifics was specifically whether there is state law
 23 or constitutional authority that prohibits the AG from
 24 accessing documents, whether there is --

25 **THE COURT:** And is there?

1 **MS. GILCHRIST:** -- applying the *Citric Acid* test --

2 **THE COURT:** And is there?

3 **MS. GILCHRIST:** There is no basis for our accessing
4 those documents on demand --

5 **THE COURT:** So --

6 **MS. GILCHRIST:** -- as is required through the --

7 **THE COURT:** So if you -- so now answer the second
8 question that I've been asking folks.

9 **MS. GILCHRIST:** If --

10 **THE COURT:** If an AG needed to get documents from an
11 agency, would they be able to send a letter and go get them?
12 Would they have to file a lawsuit? What is the process?

13 **MS. GILCHRIST:** In the context of if we are in an
14 investigative posture, Your Honor, seeking documents? I wanted
15 to clarify the question.

16 **THE COURT:** All contexts.

17 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Okay. So from a consumer protection
18 investigation perspective -- and we did cite to our civil
19 investigative demand statute in the briefing, because it allows
20 for -- that is the investigative tool that we use. Indiana can
21 serve it on third parties or targets for information
22 relevant --

23 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

24 **THE COURT:** -- able to comply, correct?

25 **MS. GILCHRIST:** It is similar, more similar to an

1 administrative subpoena. It is not self-enforcing, however.

2 So ...

3 **THE COURT:** Have you ever had to go to court to
4 enforce it?

5 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Yes. Not against a state agency, to
6 my knowledge, but we can file a petition to enforce --

7 **THE COURT:** That's all we're talking about are state
8 agencies. Have you ever had to go to court to enforce it
9 against a state agency to your knowledge?

10 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Not to my knowledge, Your Honor, no.

11 **THE COURT:** So as you all recall, I ordered
12 production of thousands of documents by the defendants to all
13 of you based upon these kinds of investigative letters. Right?
14 You were able to entirely bypass the Code of Civil Procedure
15 because I ordered the defendants to give it to you wholesale,
16 and these are the kinds of letters we're talking about. Right?

17 **MS. GILCHRIST:** It is a -- yes, it's a civil
18 investigative demand. We would typically not pursue those
19 while in litigation, and that was the reason that we cited it
20 as a lack, as evidence of the lack of our on-demand access, as
21 is required by the *Citric Acid* test. Practically speaking are
22 we potentially able to work with the agency contacts that we
23 know to obtain the documents? Potentially. But that is our
24 concern with the legal error here is that the legal control
25 test requires --

(Simultaneous crosstalk.)

2 **THE COURT:** -- you have not clarified any state
3 Supreme Court or appellate authority that indicates that this
4 was clear error. What you've identified are some practical
5 problems.

6 MS. GILCHRIST: Well, Your Honor, the burden -- we
7 believe the legal error is in the burden-shifting of the State
8 to prove a negative, that we do not have the authority, as
9 opposed to pointing to, which is the requirement in the *Citric*
10 *Acid* test, a statement of authority to obtain legal access to
11 the documents on demand. So it is -- there is not authority
12 that allows us to -- that states the Indiana Attorney General
13 has custody or control of these documents, has an access -- has
14 a right to access these documents for these agencies that are
15 under the constitutional executive in Indiana.

16 | THE COURT: All right. Response.

17 | MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 I think the authorities are laid out in our briefing and
19 Judge Kang's order. I'm happy to discuss them, but I don't
20 want to belabor the point. So the only additional thing I
21 would add is that my understanding is that in the *Generic*
22 litigation in Pennsylvania, Indiana ended up stipulating to
23 getting a lot of these documents for the other party. So
24 there's clearly some ability to obtain them from the state
25 agencies.

1 **THE COURT:** Next state.

2 **MS. GILCHRIST:** Thank you, Your Honor.

3 **MR. BURNS:** Good morning, Your Honor. Jonathan Burns
4 from Pennsylvania.

5 To answer your question, no, I am not aware of a Supreme
6 Court case regarding our investigatory subpoena authority.
7 What I would say is specifically in the opinion, our statute,
8 Section 208 of the Commonwealth Attorneys Act says that we have
9 access to books and papers specifically for duties under the
10 Act. And the legal error that occurred with respect to the
11 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General was the Court held that
12 we are ordered to represent the agencies in this particular
13 situation because of the language used in Section 204 of the
14 Commonwealth Attorneys Act, where it said we sh' -- that the
15 Office of Attorney General shall represent the agencies, and he
16 stopped at that portion of the statute.

17 And this was something that was raised during the argument
18 with the magistrate. I said to the magistrate, well, later in
19 that particular provision there is a section that describes the
20 process, and the process is this: The Attorney General can
21 decide whether we represent the agencies if it is efficient or
22 in our best interests, and the Judge's order does not describe
23 that provision whatsoever. It --

24 **THE COURT:** So how -- one, how is it not more
25 efficient? And, two, isn't it, in fact, in your best interest?

1 Because if you're ordered to, don't you want to avoid
2 sanctions?

3 **MR. BURNS:** It's -- so to address both those
4 questions, the second one, the second one, the best-interest
5 question, that's really putting the cart before the horse,
6 because in order to get to the best interest --

7 **THE COURT:** Isn't it in your best interest to be able
8 to litigate a case? I mean, this is what this is about. You
9 have come proactively into court on behalf of your state, and
10 you are attempting to shield yourself from information from the
11 State.

12 **MR. BURNS:** We -- we are not attempting to shield the
13 informations. In fact, our agencies have been -- two of the
14 five agencies that Meta seeks discovery from also received Rule
15 45 subpoenas. Those agencies responded to the Rule 45
16 subpoenas, they negotiated with Meta directly, and they --
17 after they sent that information to Meta, Meta asked for the
18 encryption key to download the documents, they received the
19 documents, and then they said, oh, by the way, this does not
20 satisfy your Rule 34 discovery obligations from the
21 magistrate's order. So --

22 **THE COURT:** Why not? Why not?

23 **MR. HALPERIN:** Well, Your Honor, the documents that
24 were provided to us were just the agency unilaterally selected
25 custodians. We don't know how the documents were provided to

1 us.

2 Our point was simply, in party discovery, consistent with
3 how Meta has been producing documents, there's --

4 **THE COURT:** Don't you understand that this is not a
5 typical case?

6 **MR. HALPERIN:** We certainly understand it's not a
7 typical case.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay.

9 **MR. HALPERIN:** Our point is simply maybe what they've
10 given us is everything they have, but they just dumped
11 documents on us.

12 **THE COURT:** Oh, and you all don't know what dumping
13 documents is like?

14 **MR. HALPERIN:** Your Honor, it -- on the defensive
15 side --

16 **THE COURT:** It was gratuitous. I understand that.
17 Sit down.

18 **MR. BURNS:** Your Honor, my understanding from the
19 agencies is that their counsel -- and just a brief
20 understanding of their representation. There's an Office of
21 General Counsel. That OGC is able to represent all of these
22 agencies in question. And so what happens is one of the
23 answers to your previous question about why this is not in our
24 best interest or inefficient is because that OGC has offered to
25 coordinate the discovery for all of these agencies. So they

1 can issue -- and they have said this. We can -- Meta could
2 issue Rule 45 subpoenas. The point person would be the Office
3 of General Counsel, and he would help facilitate that
4 discovery, or, excuse me, that response to the Rule 45
5 subpoenas.

6 In our case, what happens is -- and this is why it's not
7 in our best interest, because our office has a finite number of
8 resources, and if I am taken off of the prosecution of the
9 case, I have not been able to participate in depositions, there
10 are various aspects of the case that I am unable to report on
11 to our front office, and that happens because I spend my time
12 trying to figure out what we're going to do about discovery.

13 So the best-case scenario is that our agencies, who have a
14 point person, are able to respond to Meta's Rule 45 subpoena,
15 which they have done, and my understanding is that they were
16 actually in negotiations and it wasn't a document dump. Maybe
17 I'm incorrect about that because I wasn't involved in those
18 conversations, but that's what I was informed of.

19 And so what we would like to do is to make sure that it
20 is -- because it is in our best interest to maintain our
21 attorneys on the prosecution of the case, we decided not to
22 represent the agencies in this action. And what the magistrate
23 did was he said you shall represent the agencies, which trumps
24 our statutory obligation to make that decision on our own. It
25 doesn't -- the statute does not provide that the Court is able

1 to decide what is in the best interest of the agency or most
 2 efficient. The statute gives that to us. It's in -- the
 3 statute is also in the legislative history, which is cited in
 4 the papers.

5 So what ultimately we would like to do and have offered to
 6 Meta is to go through the Rule 45 process, and both myself have
 7 communicated with Meta, offered a meet and confer, but saying
 8 that ultimately the agencies are attempting to go through this
 9 process, and it would be quicker if we did it that way, as it
 10 has been throughout the litigation.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. Next?

12 **MR. BURNS:** Thank you.

13 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

14 **MR. STYRON:** Good morning, Your Honor. Or afternoon,
 15 Your Honor. Chris Styron, Louisiana Attorney General's Office,
 16 on behalf of the State of Louisiana.

17 I am not aware of any Louisiana Supreme Court authority
 18 related to Louisiana's authority to issue investigative
 19 subpoenas. However, I am aware of a Third Circuit case in
 20 Louisiana that specifies that our authority under our Louisiana
 21 unfair trade practice statute related to civil investigative
 22 demands only applies to prelitigation discovery. And so we do
 23 not have that tool and are not able to obtain any documents
 24 from Meta or anyone under our CID authority.

25 Also, I would like to mention that Louisiana -- Judge Kang

1 in his order heavily relied on Louisiana law and a
2 misinterpretation of Louisiana law in determining control under
3 federal law, so in that regard the Court has made Louisiana law
4 relevant.

5 That specific statute is Louisiana Revised Statute, Title
6 49, Section 257. Judge Kang indicated that that statute
7 requires the Louisiana Attorney General to represent all
8 agencies in any matter regarding or related to tort or
9 contract. The Judge misinterpreted that statute, which
10 requires that the agencies are involved in the tort and are in
11 the litigation. And I'm certainly willing to go through that
12 analysis and read the language of the statute, but my general
13 point is that the court has made Louisiana law relevant. There
14 was a misinterpretation that was relied upon heavily to
15 indicate that the Louisiana Attorney General has control in
16 this case.

17 **THE COURT:** That's a factual determination, isn't it,
18 based upon evidence that you provided to the Court?

19 **MR. STYRON:** Your Honor, we --

20 **THE COURT:** The Court asked for specific information
21 from each of you and then made a factual determination based
22 upon what you provided. Isn't that true?

23 **MR. STYRON:** Your Honor, if I recall correctly, at
24 that time Judge Kang requested that we provide very limited
25 information. I believe the request was whether there was any

1 law that prevented the AG from representing these agencies. We
 2 provided what law we could find related to this issue,
 3 similarly or potentially related, and that law was the one that
 4 Judge Kang is now relying on to say that the Attorney General
 5 shall represent these agencies here, where it's clear that the
 6 law only applies when the agency's involved in the tort.

7 So to attempt to answer your question, that seems to be a
 8 legal -- an incorrect legal opinion.

9 **THE COURT:** Revised 49, Section 267?

10 **MR. STYRON:** Louisiana Revised Statute, Title 49,
 11 257(a). It states specifically that: "The Attorney General
 12 shall represent the State and all departments and agencies of
 13 state government in all litigation arising out of or involving
 14 tort or contract."

15 Judge Kang incorrectly concluded that because this
 16 litigation arises out of tort, the statute applies, and
 17 therefore the Attorney General has to represent state agencies
 18 identified by Meta. But the Court, or Judge Kang, misread or
 19 ignored the explicit text of the statute, which says that the
 20 Attorney General shall represent these agencies in litigation,
 21 in the lawsuit, as a part of the litigation. So the statute
 22 only applies when the agencies are in the litigation and are a
 23 part of the underlying tort either as a plaintiff or defendant.

24 And there are -- Meta, nor Judge Kang cited any case law
 25 to support the fact that that statute applies when there is no

1 agency-related tort or an agency is not in the litigation.
2 There are no reported cases that say otherwise.

3 **THE COURT:** Did you answer my initial questions?

4 **MR. STYRON:** Your Honor, I attempted to. I'm not
5 aware of any Louisiana Supreme Court decision that --

6 **THE COURT:** You do have CIDs prelitigation where you
7 can, you don't even need a litigation to go in and get
8 documents when you're investigating agencies. Isn't that the
9 corollary of your statement? You say you can't issue them
10 after litigation.

11 **MR. STYRON:** Your Honor --

12 **THE COURT:** Doesn't that mean that you can before?

13 **MR. STYRON:** Your Honor, there's a very specific
14 standard under that statute, which requires the Attorney
15 General to provide evidence of an unfair trade practice, and it
16 can only be issued prelitigation. We're far beyond that.
17 Potentially at the time, prelitigation, we could have sent a
18 third-party CID to Meta, but that's the equivalent --

19 **THE COURT:** I'm not talking about your ability to
20 send things to Meta. Many of you did send things to Meta. I'm
21 asking you about your ability to get documents from these
22 agencies.

23 **MR. STYRON:** Excuse me, Your Honor. At the --

24 **THE COURT:** And by the way, there is -- under your
25 view, there is no litigation to which they are a part. So you

1 could go in there, you could give them a letter, say, I need
2 these documents, and they'd have to give them to you. Right?

3 **MR. STYRON:** No, Your Honor. And I'm sorry, I don't
4 believe I'm making my point. My point is that there has to be
5 litigation that they are in related to tort. Meaning that, for
6 example, Meta --

7 **THE COURT:** I'm not talking about the statute, I'm
8 talking about CIDs.

9 **MR. STYRON:** Under the civil investigative demand,
10 prelitigation if we were investigating Meta, we could have
11 issued --

12 **THE COURT:** I'm not talking about Meta. Don't you --
13 if you were investigating an agency --

14 **MR. STYRON:** Okay.

15 **THE COURT:** -- could you do the same thing? You
16 could go in and you could get the documents you need.

17 **MR. STYRON:** No, Your Honor.

18 **THE COURT:** You can't investigate an agency?

19 **MR. STYRON:** No, Your Honor.

20 In very limited circumstances, which are very unlikely,
21 because the Louisiana unfair trade practice statute requires
22 acts in trade and commerce, and agencies typically aren't
23 involved in trade and commerce.

24 **THE COURT:** So there's no circumstance under which
25 you could go and get documents from an agency?

1 **MR. STYRON:** There's no circumstances under Louisiana
2 law as a civil enforcement authority to demand an agency to
3 give documents to our office. No, ma'am.

4 **THE COURT:** How about criminal?

5 **MR. STYRON:** I'm not a criminal attorney. I can only
6 assume that if there's some allegations of fraud, potentially
7 there could be some criminal demands, but that's not the
8 situation.

9 **THE COURT:** So your agency has never collected
10 documents? Never once collected documents from an agency?

11 **MR. STYRON:** Not by demand.

12 **THE COURT:** Then how?

13 **MR. STYRON:** My assumption is that we could request
14 the documents and they could voluntarily give them to us.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay. So you could request them and they
16 could agree to give them to you. And that's what would
17 typically be done?

18 **MR. STYRON:** The same way we could request them of a
19 company or any other individual. But it's not a requirement
20 under Louisiana law.

21 **THE COURT:** I'd like a statement from the defense on
22 this basic proposition that a lawyer should be viewed as
23 controlling documents. And in particular, the plaintiffs argue
24 that Covington, for instance, does not control the documents of
25 its lawyers -- of its client, so it was an error to somehow

1 base the opinion on the notion that just because you're a
2 lawyer, that would give you the right to their documents.

3 **MR. HALPERIN:** I don't believe, Your Honor, that
4 Judge Kang made that conclusion. I also don't believe, Your
5 Honor, that the analogy to private outside counsel is apt here.
6 Covington's clients have a choice among --

7 **THE COURT:** All right. Stop.

8 So did he not make that conclusion? And this isn't to
9 you. I think that there were three common argument lawyers
10 identified.

11 Did he make that conclusion or not?

12 **MS. STEVENSON:** I'm sorry, Your Honor. Can you say
13 that again? Which conclusion?

14 (Reporter clarification.)

15 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Shannon Stevenson for the state AGs.

16 **THE COURT:** Did Judge Kang conclude -- well, at least
17 I understood your argument to be that he concluded that because
18 the AGs were representing, or the lawyer for the agencies, by
19 definition, or at least that was part of the analysis, they
20 should be deemed to be in control of the documents. And the
21 argument I thought by the AGs was that, well, Covington is the
22 lawyer for Meta. That doesn't mean that Covington can be
23 deemed to be in possession and control of Meta's documents.

24 Am I missing the argument?

25 **MS. SIMONSEN:** No. That's exactly right, Your Honor.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. He just argued that that
2 conclusion wasn't made by Judge Kang.

3 **MS. SIMONSEN:** No, I think that was a fundamental
4 tenet of his entire ruling.

5 **THE COURT:** And do you have a cite to the order?
6 Because for some reason Mr. Halperin doesn't think that that's
7 in the order.

8 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Yes, one second.

9 So, Your Honor, it's in the part where he cites this --
10 the legal rights or the necessary corollary to legal duties.
11 And if I could find the ... if I can find that one cite, I can
12 give it to you.

13 Ah, twenty-eight to 33. Thank you.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. What does he say?

15 **MS. SIMONSEN:** So in the middle of page 29 of the
16 order, and he says: "In the state government's context, a
17 legal relationship between the state Attorney General and the
18 agency establishes a direct legal link between the agency and
19 the plaintiff, either directly where the Attorney General is a
20 named plaintiff, or through counsel, thus supporting a finding
21 of control.

22 "As the designated legal representative for a state
23 agency, the Attorney General has professional and ethical
24 obligations to access all relevant documents to provide
25 effective legal counsel and representation. This is legally

1 mandated and goes beyond a mere practicality, ensuring that the
2 Attorney General can fulfill their duties under the federal
3 rules."

4 **MR. HALPERIN:** And, Your Honor, if I may?

5 **THE COURT:** You may.

6 **MR. HALPERIN:** That was exactly my point is he made a
7 finding that they are legally mandated to represent the
8 agencies. He made a finding in the state governance context.
9 He did not make a finding that all lawyers everywhere have
10 control over their clients' documents. That's the point that I
11 was asserting, Your Honor, he did not make a finding about.

12 **THE COURT:** It is the analogy, isn't it? And how is
13 that an accurate analogy?

14 **MR. HALPERIN:** Well, Your Honor, just last week in
15 the *New Mexico versus Johnson & Johnson* case that we submitted
16 to Your Honor supplemental authority, the Supreme Court of New
17 Mexico considered this exact same thing and said that --

18 **THE COURT:** Well, the Supreme Court of New Mexico
19 also said it was not -- it was not ultimately opining whether
20 or not the plaintiff there wanted to go back and amend its
21 complaint to exclude the agencies that had been listed in the
22 complaint, suggesting that if the agencies were no longer
23 listed in the complaint, then that link would be severed.

24 **MR. HALPERIN:** That may be so, Your Honor. I'd need
25 to go back and look at the opinion.

1 **THE COURT:** And I don't recall seeing any agency
2 actually listed in the complaint. Are agencies listed?

3 **MR. HALPERIN:** Agents are not listed, nor are they
4 excluded. And as we talked about before, Your Honor, there
5 are --

6 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

7 **THE COURT:** -- New Mexico isn't directly on point.
8 The New Mexico court made a specific reference to that issue.
9 The problem was that they were listed in the complaint.

10 **MR. HALPERIN:** Well, Your Honor, New Mexico also
11 looked at this attorney/client relationship point, and that's
12 the thing that I think is relevant to the Court here.

13 **THE COURT:** Well, yes, it's relevant because that
14 helps you, but that doesn't mean that you can avoid the fact
15 that that complaint actually was brought explicitly by the
16 agencies in part.

17 **MR. HALPERIN:** That is true, Your Honor. And there
18 are other cases where that is not the case, including *Generic*,
19 including Freyre and the other cases I've cited.

20 My point was simply that that court looked at whether AGs
21 are akin to outside counsel and said that they are not in light
22 of this statutory mandate that they -- the attorneys general
23 have to represent the agencies in this case.

24 **THE COURT:** Response.

25 **MS. STEVENSON:** Your Honor, let me, just to go back

1 to whether the Court's order was directed just at AGs. And I'm
2 looking now at the bottom of page 31 of the order. It says:
3 "Indeed, one court has noted that, in general, an attorney is
4 presumed to have control over documents in its clients'
5 possession. Thus, to the extent a state attorney general
6 represents a state agency for discovery, it would be presumed
7 to have control over the documents in the client's possession."
8 So he's relying on a case that actually doesn't have anything
9 to do with state attorney generals, it's just lawyers in
10 general, and obviously we challenge the notion.

11 I don't even -- I wouldn't argue that, you know, Covington
12 has a responsibility or a right to go seize documents from its
13 own client, I mean, and I think that's, you know, one layer of
14 the problem here. Certainly they have duties to the Court to
15 be candid about what they're doing, but that doesn't extend to
16 a right, a lawyer's right, to control their clients' documents.

17 And then the next step where I think this goes even
18 further is to suggest that the Attorney General bringing an
19 action under his consumer protection enforcement authority
20 somehow sweeps in all of the various, you know -- and this is
21 part of our trouble with the order is that it's so sweeping, it
22 would apply to any of the dozens of agencies and elected
23 officials and judicial officers that the AGs are and oftentimes
24 statutorily mandated to represent. And so if that were all
25 that was needed, the expanse of that ruling would be

1 tremendous. And as we've seen as it's played out here, maybe
2 agencies aren't being represented by state attorneys general,
3 they're being represented by outside counsel. So they --

4 **THE COURT:** So I have a list, and I take issue with
5 your representation on that point. Long before you arrived,
6 the states identified when they were represented versus not,
7 and most are.

8 **MS. STEVENSON:** The state agencies, Your Honor?

9 **THE COURT:** Correct.

10 **MS. STEVENSON:** I think the chart reflects that
11 the -- my reading of the chart where the states provided this
12 information was that most of them said it was a discretionary,
13 and that some said it's mandated.

14 **THE COURT:** Well, Category 1, which says that they
15 are not, is virtually empty.

16 **MS. STEVENSON:** Right, I agree. I think we weren't
17 at the point where the agencies needed representation, and so
18 most of the ones went into the middle column, which was we
19 don't know whether we're going to or not.

20 **THE COURT:** But they could.

21 **MS. STEVENSON:** They could. But again, I don't think
22 that's dispositive here, because again --

23 **THE COURT:** Well, it may not be dispositive, but it
24 may also not be clearly erroneous.

25 All right. Next state.

1 **MS. GOTWALS:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Joelle
2 Gotwals from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the
3 Attorney General.

4 **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

5 **MS. GOTWALS:** To Your Honor's direct questions first,
6 I am not aware of any Virginia Supreme Court or other appellate
7 case addressing the discrete issue of whether or not the Office
8 of the Attorney General, by virtue of its representation of
9 state agencies, has legal control over its documents. However,
10 I am aware of a case from 2012 called *Cuccinelli v. Rector &*
11 *Visitors of the University of Virginia*, 283 Va. 420, from 2012,
12 in which the Supreme Court of Virginia indicated that under the
13 Fraud Against Taxpayers Act, which is not at issue in this case
14 but is nevertheless relevant to the Court's specific inquiry,
15 that the Office of the Attorney General could not obtain
16 documents from the University of Virginia, a public institution
17 in the Commonwealth, via a civil investigative demand.

18 The civil investigative demand statute at issue in this
19 case is Virginia Code 59.1-9.10, which is the civil
20 investigative demand statute used both by the consumer
21 protection section in its enforcement authority, as well as the
22 antitrust division. It's, in fact, in the antitrust statute in
23 the Commonwealth.

24 There are no direct Virginia Supreme Court cases on point
25 as to the authority of that statute. However, it is a statute

1 that allows for the discretion of the Attorney General to issue
2 civil investigative demands where there is reasonable cause to
3 believe that a party has engaged in, is engaging in, or will
4 engage in violations of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act or
5 the Virginia Antitrust Act.

6 **THE COURT:** You need to slow down.

7 **MS. GOTWALS:** Apologies, Your Honor.

8 I've spoken to the brief recess with my section chief, who
9 has been with the office for 30 years, and we have never, in 35
10 years, issued a civil investigative demand to a state agency
11 pursuant to that authority.

12 I cannot speak to whether or not a state agency would
13 comply with that. There is a general requirement that public
14 officials comply with our civil investigative demand statute.
15 That is within the statute, a general requirement that they
16 comply with our investigations. However, we have no authority
17 one way or the other whether or not a CID issued to a state
18 agency, because we have never done so, would in fact be opposed
19 by that state agency.

20 I can tell you generally --

21 **THE COURT:** Well, you just said that there is a
22 requirement that they comply.

23 **MS. GOTWALS:** There's a requirement they cooperate.
24 There's not a requirement that they comply. The express
25 language of the statute is that they cooperate and participate

1 in the investigation to the extent necessary. And that is a
2 separate subdivision than the subdivision that authorizes us to
3 issue the civil investigative demand, which is effectively a --

4 **THE COURT:** What is the public authority statute that
5 says that they must comply --

6 **MS. GOTWALS:** So the statute --

7 **THE COURT:** -- or cooperate?

8 **MS. GOTWALS:** The statute at issue, Your Honor, is
9 Virginia Code 59.1-9.10. The subdivision of that statute that
10 requires that, generally speaking, public officials cooperate
11 in the investigation is Subdivision "L" of that statute. And
12 there has been no Virginia Supreme Court case law interpreting
13 the scope or breadth of that requirement that they cooperate;
14 however, our statutory authority to issue a civil investigative
15 command is not unlimited. It's not unlimited in scope, and
16 it's not unlimited in breadth.

17 **THE COURT:** Where is the scope identified?

18 **MS. GOTWALS:** So the scope as I described, Your
19 Honor, is within the Virginia Consumer Protection Act,
20 59.1-201.1, which authorizes us to issue civil investigative
21 demands under this civil investigative statute.

22 I do want to point out for the Court as it's been posed to
23 other states, that the case of *Cuccinelli versus Directors of*
24 *the Visitors of the University of Virginia* was not cited in our
25 briefing because the question posed by this Court, whether or

1 not a Virginia Supreme Court had ever ruled on whether or not a
2 civil investigative demand could be issued to a state agency
3 was not --

4 **THE COURT:** You need to slow down.

5 **MS. GOTWALS:** I apologize, Your Honor.

6 The question of whether or not the Virginia Attorney
7 General's office had the authority to issue a civil
8 investigative demand to a state agency was not before
9 Magistrate Judge Kang. Accordingly, this case, *Cuccinelli*
10 *versus UVA*, was not cited in our briefing.

11 And I would also point out again that this is a different
12 civil investigative demand statute than the one that the
13 consumer protection section would use to enforce its authority
14 under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. It's the Fraud
15 Against Taxpayers Act.

16 Two other points I'd like to make additionally, Your
17 Honor, on behalf of the Commonwealth.

18 One of the issues that Your Honor was just discussing with
19 counsel for the state AGs is whether or not this order
20 misunderstands the nature of the attorney/client relationship
21 and gives it akin to legal control. And in Virginia, the
22 statute that is relevant to the representation of state
23 agencies is Virginia Code 2.2-507. That statute provides that:
24 "All legal service in civil matters for the Commonwealth, the
25 governor and every state department," et cetera, "including in

1 the conduct of civil litigation in which they are interested,
2 shall be rendered and performed by the Attorney General." So
3 that statute first and foremost presupposes that the executive
4 branch, the governor and the agencies, are interested,
5 interests in the present litigation.

6 The Office of the Attorney General has brought this action
7 as a civil prosecutorial enforcement action under the Virginia
8 Consumer Protection Act. It's exercising its authority under
9 the Virginia Consumer Protection Act, which is extended not
10 only to the Attorney General in our statute, Your Honor, but
11 also to Commonwealth attorneys, county attorneys, city
12 attorneys and town attorneys in the Commonwealth who are all
13 akin to district attorneys in the state of California. So
14 those are prosecutors. So not only does the Attorney General
15 have enforcement authority, but so do the prosecutors at the
16 local, town and city level in the Commonwealth. This statute
17 treats our authority and the authority by which we brought
18 claims in this action as a civil prosecutor, not in our
19 representation of state agencies.

20 So the reference to legal service in cases in which the
21 governor's office, agencies, et cetera, are interested, is
22 inapposite here because they're not interested. We're bringing
23 this pursuit through our enforcement action. However, even if
24 the statute is relevant, it provides in its Subsection C that
25 if, in the opinion of the Attorney General, it is impractical

1 or uneconomical for such legal service to be rendered by him or
2 one of his assistants, he may employ special counsel for this
3 purpose.

4 The agencies at issue in this case, Your Honor, that were
5 issued Rule 45 subpoenas, though they are represented by advice
6 counsel at the Office of the Attorney General, did in fact
7 employ outside counsel to represent them in the Rule 45
8 subpoenas, because the Attorney General's office, in its
9 discretion pursuant to the statute, found it to be both
10 uneconomical and impractical for the Office of the Attorney
11 General, not to mention the consumer protection section, who I
12 represented before you today, to do that --

13 **THE COURT:** I don't know what I have to -- how many
14 times I have to ask you to slow down.

15 **MS. GOTWALS:** I apologize, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** Seriously, has anybody ever tried to be a
17 court reporter? Probably not.

18 **MS. GOTWALS:** Well, then I extend my apologies, as
19 well, to the court reporter, for the speed at which I've
20 spoken.

21 The issue, Your Honor, is that the misunderstanding of the
22 nature of this legal representation presupposes legal control
23 of those documents by the Office of the Attorney General, and
24 in this case the Office of the Attorney General is not even
25 representing those agencies in response to the Rule 45.

1 Outside counsel was hired. And it is within the discretion of
 2 the Attorney General's office and those agencies to do that,
 3 and they've done so in this case. And, in fact, Meta's counsel
 4 was meeting and conferring with that outside counsel before
 5 issuing correspondence to her that those Rule 45s had been held
 6 in abeyance.

7 The reason that this representation is relevant not only
 8 to the nature and scope of Virginia's representation in this
 9 case, but also because we don't have authority under the
 10 statutes which we use to bring our claims to seek damages for
 11 the Commonwealth. We cannot do it. Our statutory authority is
 12 for injunctive relief, civil penalties and restitution for
 13 Virginia consumers. That does not extend to damages for state
 14 agencies or money for the Commonwealth. And, in fact, in order
 15 to obtain damages for state agencies in other similar cases,
 16 such as our action in state court against Purdue Pharma, we had
 17 to bring a tort claim in order to recover those damages,
 18 because we do not have statutory authority to collect damages
 19 for state agencies.

20 So they are not an interested party in this case, we can't
 21 get damages for them, and our representation under the Virginia
 22 Consumer Protection Act does not extend to those state
 23 agencies. Which is why, when they got Rule 45 subpoenas, they
 24 hired outside counsel.

25 **THE COURT:** Response.

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1 **MR. JACKSON:** Gavin Jackson for the Meta defendants.

2 I'll keep this brief so as not to belabor the point.

3 Just as a threshold matter, I would note that my colleague
4 conceded that several of the authorities, Cuccinelli and I
5 believe the authorities related to the CID were not briefed
6 before Judge Kang, so I would submit that it is not clearly
7 erroneous for him to have based his decision on the authorities
8 that were before him.

9 And my second point, and this is just a very, very brief
10 point, is that I do think that Judge Kang's order and our
11 briefing explained why it is that this -- that the -- not only
12 does the Commonwealth have an obligation to represent the
13 agencies here, but also the agencies are interested in Judge
14 Kang's citation to the *Hitachi* case about the general interest
15 that agencies have as part of the government for any civil
16 penalties that flow into whatever fund. Because as Your Honor
17 mentioned, it is not just, as I assume at least, not just held
18 by the Attorney General.

19 **MS. GOTWALS:** May I speak to that one point directly,
20 Your Honor?

21 **THE COURT:** You may.

22 **MS. GOTWALS:** The civil penalties under the Virginia
23 Consumer Protection Act as a point of law actually go to our
24 revolving fund which fund the litigation efforts of the
25 Consumer Protection Section of the Office of the Attorney

1 General. They do not default to the general fund.

2 **THE COURT:** So the court reporter got nothing about
3 what you said. You going to say it again?

4 **MS. GOTWALS:** Thank you, Your Honor. I appreciate
5 the opportunity to do that.

6 Under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act, any civil
7 penalties obtained from Meta by the Commonwealth under this
8 action would, first and foremost, go to the revolving fund,
9 which funds the litigation efforts of the Department of
10 Consumer Counsel and the Department of Law, the Office of the
11 Attorney General. They do not default to the General
12 Assembly's general fund.

13 **THE COURT:** Response?

14 **MR. JACKSON:** I would -- Gavin Jackson for the Meta
15 defendants.

16 I would point back to, I think, a broader argument
17 about --

18 **THE COURT:** Do you have any response to that specific
19 representation of funding?

20 **MR. JACKSON:** Not to the specific representation, but
21 I'm not familiar or as familiar with the ruling from it. I
22 would just flag that I believe my colleague mentioned that it
23 would not default to the general fund but did not rule out that
24 it would never go to a general fund or end up in the hands of
25 an agency.

1 **THE COURT:** Do you have any indication that it would?

2 **MR. JACKSON:** Based on my current understanding, no,
3 Your Honor.

4 **MS. GOTWALS:** Your Honor, I would just cite to the
5 statute, Virginia Code 59.1-206(a): "In any action brought
6 under this chapter, if the Court finds that a person is
7 willfully engaged in act or practice in violation of the
8 Virginia Consumer Protection Act, they may recover for the
9 literary fund," which we colloquially refer to as the revolving
10 fund, "a civil penalty."

11 The statute provides that the money will go first and
12 foremost to the revolving fund, Your Honor.

13 **THE COURT:** Ms. Miyata, can you tell me where it is
14 that -- well, when we were talking about damages award and the
15 right to a jury trial, et cetera, and you said that you
16 withdrew all of your claims for damages, is that -- was the
17 withdrawal in the context of the revised complaint, or is there
18 some other document that I should be looking at?

19 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, I believe -- apologies.
20 Bianca Miyata for the state attorneys general.

21 I believe that that was included in the subsequent case
22 management statement. If you give me five minutes, I can find
23 the document number for that.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

25 All right. Next.

1 **MS. HAIGHT:** Your Honor, Ann Haight for West
2 Virginia.

3 **THE COURT:** Okay. Hold on just a minute.

4 **MS. HAIGHT:** I think I'm on the very last page on the
5 list.

6 **THE COURT:** No, I had a nice little one-page chart.

7 Go ahead.

8 **MS. HAIGHT:** Okay. I do not have, from West
9 Virginia, any specific cases that relate to a control issue,
10 but there is a case that relates to the fact that in this case,
11 the tax commissioner, who was being represented by the Attorney
12 General, in one of the decisions says: "For his part, the tax
13 commissioner, like any other client in an attorney/client
14 relationship, was not required to accept that advice," which
15 was advice from the Attorney General. So we do have something
16 that suggests that we wouldn't have ultimate control. That
17 case was submitted to the magistrate judge.

18 In terms of can we do CIDs, or in our case informal
19 requests or subpoenas, yes, we can. We have done friendly
20 subpoenas to other agencies. We have never had to enforce them
21 in court. There may have been decisions not to go forward in
22 some instances.

23 And on behalf of West Virginia, which is similar to what
24 Maryland's already indicated, we only brought COPPA claims. We
25 did not assert any state consumer protection claims, so that

1 that has some limitation on what information may be gathered.

2 The other thing is if -- talking about the Rule 45
3 subpoenas and the rule -- the request for production, for the
4 Rule 45 subpoenas, those were being handled, the two agencies
5 that received them, by their general counsel, until they were
6 told to stop. And then now with requests for production out
7 to, I believe it's those two, plus three more, they all have
8 their own general counsel that are trying to gather
9 information.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

11 Next?

12 **MR. WHITE:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Charles
13 White for the North Carolina Attorney General's office.

14 I'll start with your question regarding investigative
15 demands. Our tool for consumer protection actions is found in
16 Chapter 75 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

17 **THE COURT:** So, you, too. Maybe, Kelly, could you
18 get a piece of paper with a marker that says: "slow down" --

19 **MR. WHITE:** Perhaps I should get a tattoo. I always
20 forget. I apologize, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** -- that we can paste over there?

22 All right. Go ahead.

23 **MR. WHITE:** So, yes. Chapter 75 of the North
24 Carolina General Statutes grants the Attorney General authority
25 to investigate unfair and deceptive trade practices, and those

1 statutes are focused on investigations of businesses,
2 corporations and persons doing business in the state.

3 **THE COURT:** Okay. I know there's a really good
4 coffee shop across the way. My preference is for the small
5 outfit rather than the big multi-global outfit.

6 **MR. WHITE:** And I will have tea next time.

7 **THE COURT:** You probably all went there. You drank a
8 lot of coffee during the break.

9 **MR. WHITE:** And --

10 **THE COURT:** So Chapter 75.

11 **MR. WHITE:** Chapter 75, Your Honor.

12 This morning, in the course of consulting with my
13 colleagues at home, including a former 25-year division chief
14 for consumer protection, are not aware of any instances that we
15 have used that with respect to agencies.

16 There's also a North Carolina Supreme Court --

17 **THE COURT:** So how do you get documents when you need
18 them?

19 **MR. WHITE:** There are instances where we have
20 voluntarily requested documents from agencies. I will note
21 that there have also been times before where we have been
22 denied access to those documents by agencies.

23 **THE COURT:** And then you just dropped it?

24 **MR. WHITE:** We have not litigated in those cases.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. But there have been plenty of

1 instances, then, when you voluntarily requested it and they
2 complied. Right?

3 **MR. WHITE:** And I think that practical compliance
4 would speak to perhaps the practical ability to obtain
5 documents test that is used in other circuits. I don't think
6 it's enough to show that the Attorney General has access to the
7 documents on demand in every case, including this one.

8 **THE COURT:** All right.

9 **MR. WHITE:** And --

10 **THE COURT:** Talk about that test.

11 **MR. JACKSON:** Thank you, Your Honor. Gavin Jackson
12 for the Meta defendants.

13 I agree that that would satisfy the practical ability
14 test, which is not at issue here. I would just make the
15 broader point that Judge Kang was not relying on a practical
16 ability test, he was looking at the overall framework and when
17 it is that the state attorney general must or is likely to
18 represent the state agencies for the reasons that were outlined
19 in great detail in his order. That is what gives the legal
20 right to obtain, not the practical ability that he may send a
21 request and the agency may comply with that request.

22 **THE COURT:** What are the components of the practical
23 ability test?

24 **MR. WHITE:** I believe, Your Honor, it's the ability
25 to work with companies, usually in the context of corporations,

1 to have a regular exchange of documents or some sort of
2 relationship akin to that.

3 **THE COURT:** Is the practical ability test, in your
4 view, has it ever been used between an Attorney General and a
5 state agency?

6 **MR. WHITE:** I know there are. I can't specifically
7 name those off the top of my hand, focused here today on the
8 legal control test.

9 **THE COURT:** Does anybody in this courtroom understand
10 or can tell me the components or elements of the test in the
11 context of an attorney general and an agency? Anybody? Raise
12 your hand.

13 I've stumped a bunch of lawyers. All right.

14 **MR. HEYBURN:** There's the general test.

15 **THE COURT:** All right. Let me hear the general test,
16 but --

17 **MR. HEYBURN:** So the order cites --

18 **THE COURT:** State your name.

19 **MR. HEYBURN:** This is Jack Heyburn on behalf of the
20 Kentucky Attorney General.

21 And I agree that the order does up front say that it will
22 be applying the legal right test, but it does cite a number of
23 practical ability cases, one of which it block quotes at
24 page 7, and that gives us the practical ability test.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay.

1 **MR. HEYBURN:** Which is then applied throughout the
2 order. And that looks to commonality of ownership, exchange or
3 intermingling of directors, officers or employees, exchange --

4 **THE COURT:** But that's not -- that's not an
5 attorney -- that isn't in this context.

6 **MR. HEYBURN:** I think you would apply it the same in
7 the state context. You would ask whether there's an exchange
8 of documents, any benefit or involvement of the nonparty in the
9 litigation. You basically look to what is the practical
10 relationship, particularly the furnishing of documents, history
11 of furnishing of documents. That's a key part that is a factor
12 in the practical ability test, but *Citric Acid* says pretty
13 explicitly that a history of voluntarily furnishing documents
14 has no role in the legal right test.

15 **THE COURT:** All right.

16 **MR. WHITE:** And Your Honor, if I may, we do have a
17 North Carolina Supreme Court case that touches on one of the
18 other issues that both Meta and the order rely on pretty
19 significantly, and that's the idea that there is a mandatory --

20 **THE COURT:** Do you have a case?

21 **MR. WHITE:** It is *Martin v. Thornburg*, 379 S.E.2d
22 472.

23 **THE COURT:** And was it cited?

24 **MR. WHITE:** It was not cited in our brief to the
25 magistrate, and the reason for that is that the underlying

1 statute, which we believe is fairly clear, permits agencies to
2 hire their own inside counsel. And what the order does is
3 transform that statute into saying that the agencies may never
4 hire separate counsel from the Attorney General's office.
5 That's not what the plain text of the statute says. The
6 statute simply restricts agencies from hiring private counsel.

7 And so the reality is is --

8 **THE COURT:** Hold on.

9 "The statute says that agencies cannot hire private
10 counsel." Didn't you just say that?

11 **MR. WHITE:** Yes, Your Honor. No --

12 **THE COURT:** So, that's fine. I don't have the
13 statute in front of me.

14 So who else can they hire if not the Attorney General,
15 since they are prohibited by statute from hiring private
16 counsel? I'm assuming they're not getting pro bono counsel,
17 are they?

18 **MR. WHITE:** That's the distinction: Private counsel
19 in the sense hiring outside law firms. They're permitted to
20 employ in-house counsel as employees of their own departments,
21 and in this case we have been working since the entry of the
22 order with in-house counsel and several of those agencies to
23 comply with the order. And especially with respect to subpoena
24 requests and public records responses, agencies often do opt to
25 use those in-house counsel. As we heard mentioned this morning

1 a little while ago, that choice that the agencies have is a
 2 distinguishing factor that breaks the supposed degree of close
 3 coordination and mandatory attorney/client relationship that is
 4 supposedly giving rise to the Attorney General's control of
 5 documents for any litigation, including this one.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. Next.

7 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, if I may briefly just to
 8 answer your question from earlier. Bianca Miyata for the state
 9 AGs.

10 The cite I was thinking of was Document 618, on page 7,
 11 and that is a case management statement. Starting at line 5, I
 12 think we clarified: "The state attorneys general do not intend
 13 to seek restitution in a form that's measured by the amount of
 14 money expended by individuals, state agencies, or the states as
 15 a result of Meta's alleged conduct." I'm sorry, "misconduct."
 16 I misread that word. "The state attorneys general do intend to
 17 seek statutory civil penalties, among other remedies."

18 And as I recall our discussion with the Court during the
 19 conference in chambers that was not -- I don't believe that
 20 that was on the record, but I believe in that conference we had
 21 represented that there were certain states seeking a remedy in
 22 the nature of disgorgement, but not actual damages.

23 **THE COURT:** So the requests for disgorgement have
 24 been withdrawn?

25 **MS. MIYATA:** The requests for disgorgement remain,

1 but that's specifically for profits that result I think from
 2 the -- from the very specific misconduct being alleged in this
 3 action.

4 **THE COURT:** Are all states seeking disgorgement? It
 5 doesn't look like it.

6 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, as I stand here today I do
 7 not believe that they are. Unfortunately, I could not give you
 8 a breakdown on the fly of which ones are and which are not.
 9 Some state statutes permit for the request of that sort of
 10 remedy, and I think as you heard from my colleague, Ms. Gotwals
 11 from Virginia, some states do not.

12 **THE COURT:** Mr. White, looks like you are. Correct?

13 And where would the disgorgement of profits that you are
 14 seeking, do those go back to the general fund which all of
 15 these agencies would profit from?

16 **MR. WHITE:** Your Honor, we don't currently have a
 17 plan for the disposition of any disgorgement that would be
 18 received from this case. It's possible that it would need to
 19 be appropriated by the General Assembly. It's just a fact-
 20 dependent circumstance that we don't have insight into right
 21 now.

22 **THE COURT:** Well, the AG's office, is there no
 23 statute that says where the monies have to go?

24 **MR. WHITE:** There is a statute that says we can seek
 25 disgorgement. I am not aware of any statutes off the top of my

1 head specifically mandating its disposition.

2 **THE COURT:** Have you ever received disgorgement in a
3 case before?

4 **MR. WHITE:** I believe so, but I don't recall how
5 specifically it was disposed of.

6 **THE COURT:** Where was it -- well, did you actually
7 receive it?

8 **MR. WHITE:** Again, I believe so.

9 **THE COURT:** And where did you deposit it?

10 **MR. WHITE:** I think it may have been appropriated by
11 the legislature to a variety of state agencies.

12 **MS. MIYATA:** And, Your Honor, Bianca Miyata from the
13 State AGs speaking at this point about how things work in
14 Colorado.

15 I know that when there are penalties from a Consumer
16 Protection Act claim, those penalties do go back into the
17 general fund, but then monies from the general fund have to be
18 appropriated and allocated by the legislature. And while those
19 may go to -- those may go to support agency endeavors, they may
20 also go to support other initiatives on the part of the State.

21 **THE COURT:** Right; but it goes back to the State. I
22 mean, in --

23 **MS. MIYATA:** I take your point.

24 **THE COURT:** I think I've taken a note about one state
25 for whom those funds fund that agency.

1 **MS. MIYATA:** I take your point, Your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** But if they're going back to the State,
3 that suggests that this is -- much more strongly -- that it's
4 being done on behalf of the State, not just an agency. So --

5 **MR. WHITE:** Your Honor, if I could make a brief point
6 regarding North Carolina.

7 We are also seeking civil penalties which by law does not
8 go to the state agencies that Meta has identified, but after
9 being appropriated by the General Assembly will go to the local
10 school districts. And just as a general matter, that kind of
11 attenuated financial interest in the litigation we don't
12 believe is enough to say that the Attorney General has control
13 over agency documents for the purpose of litigation.

14 **THE COURT:** I don't think that there is any one
15 factor that's dispositive.

16 All right. Next.

17 **MS. MICKO:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Caitlin
18 Micko on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

19 **THE COURT:** M-i-c-k-o?

20 **MS. MICKO:** That's correct, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** All right. Go ahead.

22 **MS. MICKO:** Okay. I want to address the Court's
23 questions.

24 Like my colleagues before me, the Minnesota Attorney
25 General may issue a civil investigative demand pursuant to

1 Statute 8.31. It's akin to a subpoena, where parties can move
2 to quash.

3 **THE COURT:** Have they ever in your knowledge?

4 **MS. MICKO:** We -- yes. And let me be clear.

5 **THE COURT:** And I want to be specific. Not just any
6 party. I don't -- I'm more interested in agencies.

7 **MS. MICKO:** Thank you. I was just about to make that
8 clarify.

9 We know of no instance where our office has issued a civil
10 investigative demand to a state agency.

11 **THE COURT:** How do you get documents when you need
12 them?

13 **MS. MICKO:** In the past, we have issued Rule 45
14 subpoenas.

15 **THE COURT:** How many times has that happened?

16 **MS. MICKO:** I know of at least two, one of which was
17 cited in our brief, the case *State versus Juul*.

18 **THE COURT:** And who did you issue subpoenas to?

19 **MS. MICKO:** To state agencies. I apologize, I don't
20 know the specific state agencies, but ...

21 **THE COURT:** As in *Juul*, J-u-l-l?

22 **MS. MICKO:** J-u-u-l.

23 **THE COURT:** And to whom did you issue?

24 **MS. MICKO:** I apologize. I don't have the exact name
25 of the agencies, but they were issued to state agencies.

1 **THE COURT:** Hmm, okay.

2 **MS. MICKO:** Your Honor, the magistrate judge found --
3 erred in finding that the Minnesota Attorney General's office
4 has --

5 **THE COURT:** So I need you to answer my other
6 question.

7 **MS. MICKO:** Sure.

8 So we do have Minnesota Supreme Court case law that is
9 relevant to the question of control, and the first is the
10 question of whether or not we have the ability to legally
11 obtain documents from state agencies. And Magistrate Judge
12 Kang relies on 13.393 for his finding that we have an explicit
13 legal right, and this is wrong as a matter of law. Which, I
14 would like to point the Court to *Energy Policy Advocates versus*
15 *Ellison*. It's a 2022 Minnesota Supreme Court case, 980 N.W.2d
16 146. It explains the point of 13.393, which is that under the
17 Data Practices Act, where people can make public information
18 requests, attorney/client privileges are not eroded. So they
19 are -- they maintain. And that's the extent of what 13.393 is
20 intended to mean, and Magistrate Judge Kang misread that
21 statute.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Response?

23 **MR. CARPENTER:** Thank you, Your Honor.

24 Because we've been discussing this issue of where funds
25 are deposited, I want to point out that under Minnesota law --

1 **THE COURT:** I'm not asking that question. I'm asking
2 you to respond to the specific statute.

3 **MR. CARPENTER:** Sure, Your Honor.

4 So that statute is an exception to the broader Minnesota
5 data access law, and I think there are a few problems with
6 Minnesota's arguments about it.

7 The first one is that that's not the primary authority
8 that we or Judge Kang rely on. We relied on other broader
9 statutes that give the Attorney General authority over
10 agencies' legal affairs and to represent them. And on, for
11 example, a federal district court decision, the *St. Jude*
12 decision, holding that the attorney/client relationship between
13 state AGs and state agencies, which is mandated by law,
14 requires close coordination.

15 I think this issue of the Minnesota Data Access Act is
16 secondary to that, so to the extent the Court thinks that act
17 is relevant, that's just a law that says that, in general,
18 agencies shouldn't be disclosing nonpublic data to the public.
19 I think as Judge Kang correctly held, that doesn't bar, for
20 example, production of documents in discovery. So the
21 subsection that we're now talking about, 13.393, just makes
22 that explicit. It says -- I won't read it out because it's
23 quite long, but one thing it says is that the usual rules or
24 statutes around production of documents and discovery are not
25 set aside. And I don't think that the *Energy Advocates* case

1 that my colleague on the other side just cited says anything
2 different. In that case, it dealt with the attorney/client
3 privilege and said that was one sort of rule that was
4 preserved, but it wasn't a holding that that exception only
5 applies to the rule in general.

6 If I could just make a few other points about that data
7 access law, too.

8 The first is that even if it applied, at most, it would
9 apply to one agency. Or apologies, Your Honor.

10 The other thing to note about that law is that the
11 subsection we're talking about explicitly says, quote:
12 "Notwithstanding any other provision of the law." So even if
13 the Court disagrees with me today and disagrees with Judge Kang
14 about what that law means, that subsection comes into play.

15 If the Court would like, I'm also happy to discuss the
16 issue of how funds are deposited in North -- Minnesota, but I
17 defer to the Court.

18 (Reporter clarification.)

19 **MR. CARPENTER:** Yes. No, I'm sorry. Ansel Carpenter
20 on behalf of Meta.

21 **THE COURT:** All right. Go ahead.

22 **MR. CARPENTER:** Thank you, Your Honor.

23 Under Minnesota Statute, Section 8.31, Subdivision 3, it
24 requires that: "All sums recovered by the Attorney General,"
25 quote, "including civil penalties, shall be deposited into the

1 general fund."

2 **MS. MICKO:** Your Honor, if I may? I have one more
3 Supreme Court precedent I'd like to discuss.

4 Magistrate Judge Kang relies heavily in his opinion
5 relating to Minnesota about the relationship between the
6 Attorney General and state agencies and makes the conclusion
7 that because the Attorney General's office in a separate and
8 distinct function may serve as outside counsel in matters, that
9 therefore the attorney/client relationship is imputed to the
10 entire office, including this law enforcement action, and
11 therefore we have control over the documents.

12 The *Hennepin County versus McLaren* case, which is 402
13 N.W.2d 535, Minnesota, 1987, is in direct conflict with this,
14 because it holds that the government is a unique body that for
15 which the rules of conflict and attorney/client privilege are
16 different, and that we can represent and we do represent state
17 agencies that may be in conflict with one another. And so this
18 is also an error of law and a basis to overturn Magistrate
19 Judge Kang's order.

20 **THE COURT:** Response?

21 **MR. CARPENTER:** So just on that last specific point,
22 I think, if anything, that would cut the other way, because it
23 shows that the Attorney General can work out conflicts if
24 needed. But I think Judge Kang made a broader point in the
25 order that's right, which is that just because -- you're not

1 deprived of control over another party's documents just because
2 you might have a conflict in a separate arena with them. I
3 think there is an example of companies, where Company A might
4 have control over the other's documents whether because of a
5 contract or anything else, and those companies also might be
6 adverse in other litigation.

7 Other than that, unless the Court has Minnesota-specific
8 questions, I'm happy to rest on our brief.

9 **THE COURT:** Next.

10 **MR. CHAND:** Kashif Chand from the New Jersey Division
11 of Law, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** I thought I already heard from New
13 Jersey.

14 **MR. CHAND:** You did, Your Honor. I would like to
15 correct --

16 **THE COURT:** Wait 'til everybody has a chance to
17 speak.

18 Next.

19 **MS. VALIN:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Donna Valin
20 for the Office of the Florida Attorney General.

21 **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

22 **MS. VALIN:** I'd like to first add that, and as it
23 relates to your question regarding investigative subpoenas,
24 Florida is in a unique position, and one of only two states, I
25 believe, that has brought this action on behalf of the Florida

1 Attorney General and the Department of Legal Affairs and not on
 2 behalf of the State, and that becomes an important distinction
 3 as I move to some of the topics.

4 First, under Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade
 5 Practices Act, FDUTPA, the enforcing authority cannot bring an
 6 action, investigative action, against a state agency by virtue
 7 of its definition of a consumer. A consumer has to be an
 8 individual or a corporation and, as thus, doesn't come into the
 9 purview of its authority. However, in -- as I phoned a friend
 10 during the break, our agency has requested documents in the
 11 opioids litigation and were refused. And as a result of that
 12 refusal by a state agency, the State of Florida drafted
 13 legislation and had a bill put in place to require that agency
 14 to produce documents.

15 That statute was included in the original filing to Judge
 16 Kang, Section 409.9072 Florida Statutes.

17 **THE COURT:** So I take it it has not yet passed?

18 **MS. VALIN:** No, it is passed, and that's how the
 19 Attorney General was able to obtain those records.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay. So how does the statute work, and
 21 what was the agency that refused to produce in opioids?

22 **MS. VALIN:** It was the Agency for Health -- I'm
 23 sorry, excuse me. Department of Health.

24 **THE COURT:** So back up a little.

25 So Florida sues in the opioid, attempts to get documents

1 from the Department of Health, or the defendants attempted to
2 get documents?

3 **MS. VALIN:** It's my understanding that it's the
4 plaintiffs, but I just got all of this information during the
5 break, so I'm not sure of all of the specifics related to the
6 back facts related to that process.

7 **THE COURT:** All right. Anything else?

8 **MS. VALIN:** Yes, Your Honor. I have a couple of
9 other points.

10 Mr. Halperin today has referenced the *Fyeyre* case on
11 multiple occasions. *Freyre versus Hillsborough County*, in the
12 Middle District of Florida. It's a case where the State of
13 Florida was named as the defendant. That is also a case that
14 has been vacated, but for our purposes today it's also
15 illustrative from our perspective. That case was brought as
16 the State of Florida was the defendant in that case, and the
17 governor was the executive that was determined to have control
18 over state agency documents and not the Florida Attorney
19 General.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay.

21 **MS. VALIN:** And the third point that I'd like to make
22 today is that in the magistrate's order and throughout all of
23 the order, required representation equals control, from what I
24 can gather. And he also applied that by excluding some
25 agencies for the State of Arizona.

1 In his order -- and I'd like to just read this portion
2 here, that: "While the Florida Attorney General is a separate
3 entity, although the Florida Attorney General does bring the
4 instant action in its own independent authority, this does not
5 outweigh the requirement that the Florida Attorney General must
6 statutorily act as the Florida agency's counsel." That's on
7 page 77, beginning line 5. And then further down on this page
8 states, line 22: "Accordingly, it appears undisputed that
9 under the Florida statutory scheme, each state agency at issue
10 here will be represented by the Florida Attorney General in
11 this matter for discovery."

12 And there are a couple of different statutes that have
13 been cited, cited throughout by Meta, cited by us and cited
14 here on this page, and Florida submits that the statutes were
15 applied in error. And if I could take a moment to explain,
16 beginning with 16.014, which is a statute that -- pardon me.
17 Let me just open it up here. I'm sorry, 16.015, which requires
18 the Department of Legal Affairs in the Attorney General's
19 office: "Shall be responsible for providing all legal services
20 required by any department." But the important distinction
21 here is it has to be required.

22 Answering a discovery or a subpoena request, Rule 45 even,
23 is not required to have the Florida Attorney General step in to
24 be counsel. There's a robust contracting process that was also
25 included in the first filing to Judge Kang in that it must be

1 required. For example in this case, discussing Rule 45
2 subpoenas, we have a state of almost 10,000 employees within
3 the state agencies, 50 agencies for the State of Florida. And
4 the particular agencies that were served Rule 45 subpoenas,
5 they have legal counsel, they have general counsels that have
6 been communicating with Meta and from my understanding had
7 already been doing extensive hit counts using search terms
8 provided by Meta.

9 So I wanted to just add that these agencies, certainly
10 it's not compulsory to use the Florida Attorney General for
11 legal representation, and we haven't contracted, which is a
12 requirement, or entered any agreement with any state agency to
13 provide any legal representation. And that is one statute.

14 And then the other statute is 16.01 Florida Statutes. And
15 here -- and that's why earlier I made the distinction that this
16 case was brought on behalf of the Attorney General and is in a
17 unique position, and only one of two states. I believe New
18 Jersey is the other state. If I'm missing one, I apologize.
19 But in the case there that as a -- the Attorney General "shall
20 appear in behalf of the State, all suits or prosecutions, civil
21 or criminal and in equity, in which the state may be a party,
22 or in anywise interested."

23 And, again, the State is not -- is a different -- it's
24 completely different than this State -- Florida State Attorney
25 General, Department of legal affairs, and this statute

1 specifically relates to the State in total. And the example in
 2 the *Freyre* case is perfect, because that's when the Attorney
 3 General represented the named State of Florida as a defendant.
 4 And even then, there is contracting and a series of agreements
 5 that take place when the Attorney General is to represent a
 6 state agency.

7 **THE COURT:** Response?

8 **MR. CARPENTER:** Thank you, Your Honor. Ansel
 9 Carpenter for the Meta defendants.

10 Let me start where Florida's counsel just did, which is
 11 with the fact that Florida's office captioned the state as
 12 brought by the Attorney General rather than the State of
 13 Florida. It's true also of Maryland and New Jersey are the
 14 three states where this has happened.

15 As courts have held -- we cited this in our briefing, but
 16 a few examples are *Shelby County* or the *Compagnie Francais*
 17 case. Even when the Attorney General brings a suit in its own
 18 name, that's a suit, in sum and substance, by the State,
 19 because the Attorney General is only acting on behalf of the
 20 State and can only act on behalf of the State. I think that's
 21 particularly true with the claims here.

22 As I mentioned earlier, under COPPA, the AG can only bring
 23 a suit as parens patriae on behalf of a state, as Florida had.
 24 But even setting that aside, as Judge Kang's order recognized,
 25 if the AG were truly the only party in any sense of that word

1 or were truly the only entity before the Court, they could
 2 still exercise control over third parties' documents. That's,
 3 in fact, what every case about third-party document control is
 4 about, so I don't think it's dispositive.

5 Second, moving to the authorities that the Florida's
 6 counsel just talked about, I think it leaves off the list our
 7 opening authority, which is Florida Statute 16.015, which says,
 8 quote: "The AGs" -- excuse me. "AGs are responsible," quote,
 9 "for providing all legal services required by any department
 10 unless otherwise provided by law."

11 Counsel mentioned Section 16.014. There is also another
 12 subsection that follows that, which is 015. And those two,
 13 when read together, as Judge Kang recognized, mean that the AG
 14 "shall appear and attend to in behalf of the State all suits,
 15 including in courts of the United States, where the State is a
 16 party or otherwise interested."

17 On the *Freyre* case, I don't think that is a correct
 18 reading of it. That case held, quote: "The OAG, as counsel
 19 for the State in this suit, is obligated to obtain all relevant
 20 discovery from these departments." So, yes, the governor was
 21 named as a party, that is true, but that doesn't change the
 22 fact that the Court was performing a control analysis.

23 Counsel also mentioned that that case was vacated. But to
 24 be clear, it was vacated only as part of a settlement, not, for
 25 example, because it went up on appeal and was reversed or

1 vacated. So I think Judge Kang was perfectly entitled to rely
2 on it, because I think his order recognized just because a case
3 is vacated as part of a settlement doesn't mean that it doesn't
4 have something valuable that later courts can look to when
5 performing a similar analysis.

6 And, of course, even if *Freyre* were not persuasive, and it
7 is, there are a number of other cases that took the same basic
8 approach Judge Kang did and reached the same basic conclusion
9 he reached.

10 Unless the Court has any other questions, otherwise I
11 would rest on the briefing.

12 **THE COURT:** Next.

13 **MS. VALIN:** If I may just correct counsel?

14 I did read into the record 16.015 and not 16.014, as
15 referenced.

16 Thank you, Your Honor. And thank you.

17 **THE COURT:** Thanks.

18 **MS. WOLD:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. I am Megan
19 Wold on behalf of the State of Montana. I think I can be very
20 brief.

21 Montana did not ask to be heard orally at today's hearing,
22 so --

23 **THE COURT:** I'm not seeing your name. All right.

24 **MS. WOLD:** That's right.

25 I only want to stand up to the extent that any of your

1 questions were directed to state attorneys general who were
 2 present. Didn't want to be deemed to have waived an argument
 3 by not standing up.

4 So I just would reiterate that Montana does not have a
 5 legal right to access the documents of the six state agencies
 6 that are at issue for the reasons that we cited in the
 7 briefing. If you'd like me to elaborate, I'm happy to. But
 8 again, Montana did not ask to be heard today on this issue.

9 **THE COURT:** Well, do you want to respond to my
 10 questions, or not?

11 **MS. WOLD:** I'm happy to.

12 I don't have any additional precedent to cite besides what
 13 is in the briefing, although I think it's very clear and very
 14 solid authority that under the Montana --

15 **THE COURT:** Do you have any Cal' -- do you have any
 16 cases from the Supreme Court of Montana?

17 **MS. WOLD:** To the extent there are relevant cases,
 18 they're explicated in the briefing. I was just going to cite
 19 the constitution and statute, but it's in the briefing.

20 And with regard to how Montana would obtain documents from
 21 an agency if it wished to, it's possible that there are very
 22 limited circumstances in which it could issue a CID. Typically
 23 it would issue a subpoena or use another type of legal process.
 24 And in all of those examples, they would not be self-enforcing.
 25 Montana would need a court's participation to enforce those if

1 an agency did not wish to provide or did not agree.

2 **THE COURT:** Are you aware of anytime that it had to?

3 **MS. WOLD:** I'm aware of times when the State has sued
4 state agencies, and I am not aware of any times in which the
5 State has issued a CID to a state agency. And that's the
6 extent of my knowledge today.

7 **THE COURT:** Are you aware of any time the State
8 issued a CID or a subpoena, where it had to enforce it by way
9 of lawsuit?

10 **MS. WOLD:** I am not aware one way or the other on
11 that, so I couldn't say in either direction.

12 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

13 **MS. WOLD:** Thank you, Your Honor.

14 **MR. STROUD:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Assistant
15 Attorney General Colin Stroud on behalf of the State of
16 Wisconsin. I'm going to do my best --

17 **THE COURT:** Hold on. I'm trying to find you.

18 **MR. STROUD:** Sure, sure.

19 **THE COURT:** Colin Stroud?

20 **MR. STROUD:** Correct.

21 **THE COURT:** All right. Go ahead.

22 **MR. STROUD:** I'd like to do my best to try to answer
23 your two questions first, and then if I may, I have a few
24 additional points I'd like to raise.

25 With regard to the investigation issue, I'm not aware of

1 our office ever issuing subpoenas to other state agencies in
2 investigating them. If there were --

3 **THE COURT:** How do you get documents, then?

4 **MR. STROUD:** If there were an instance where we
5 needed documents from a state agency, my understanding is that
6 we would request them informally and they would be provided.
7 I'm not aware of an instance in which we have gone to court to
8 compel another agency to provide documents to us.

9 If that answers the one question, I will turn to the
10 second question about authority.

11 I'm not aware of any Wisconsin Supreme Court or court of
12 appeals authority that directly contradicts the order that
13 Judge Kang issued. There are two cases that I believe are
14 relevant. One of them was cited in our initial brief to Judge
15 Kang, the other was not. I'm happy to explain why it was not
16 cited.

17 If that answers your questions, I just have a few other
18 things I'd like to say.

19 **THE COURT:** Well, talk about the two cases.

20 **MR. STROUD:** Two cases.

21 The first is *Koschkee versus Evers*.

22 **THE COURT:** How do you spell that?

23 **MR. STROUD:** I think it's K-o-s-c-h-k-e-e. It was
24 cited in our brief, the initial brief on the motion.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay.

1 **MR. STROUD:** In that case the Wisconsin Supreme Court
2 held that independent constitutional officers in Wisconsin must
3 be able to take legal positions contrary to the Attorney
4 General, so that they are required to have their own
5 representation so that they can assert their own legal views in
6 a matter.

7 In this case, Judge Kang found that we represent the
8 governor of Wisconsin, other state agencies, as well. We do
9 not represent the governor in this case. And by suggesting
10 that we do, the Court is requiring independent constitutional
11 officers to proceed under a common umbrella of representation,
12 and the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held that they are entitled
13 to take contrary positions to the Attorney General, which would
14 not be able to do under this posture.

15 The second case that I wanted to discuss was *City of Oak*
16 *Creek, or State versus City of Oak Creek*. That was cited in
17 our briefing to Judge Kang. And the reason that I believe it
18 is relevant to today's proceedings is it confirms something
19 that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held for over a hundred
20 years, which is that the Wisconsin Attorney General lacks
21 common law powers and duties and derives his authority solely
22 from statute.

23 In this case, our position is that in the absence of
24 explicit statutory authority saying that we can obtain
25 documents from other state agencies we cannot act, because the

1 Wisconsin constitution provides that the Attorney General
2 requires statutory authority before he can act.

3 The last thing I want to address is the basic finding with
4 regard to Wisconsin that we represent the governor in this case
5 and, by extension, other state agencies. We do not represent
6 the governor in this litigation. I'm happy to go through the
7 statutory structure underlying the nature of our representation
8 in this case because I think it is relevant, and it was cited
9 by Judge Kang and cited by Meta.

10 Wisconsin Statute 165.25 describes the powers of the
11 Department of Justice. There are three provisions that have
12 been cited in connection with this ruling. The first is
13 165.25, Sub 1. That statute is completely inapplicable to this
14 proceeding. It pertains only to representation in Wisconsin
15 state court. It refers to specifically cases on appeal or on
16 remand. It has no applicability to the type of proceeding
17 we're talking about here.

18 165.25, Sub 6, refers to representation in defense of
19 cases, and it provides that agencies may request that the
20 Attorney General represent them in defense cases. Again, that
21 statute has no applicability here. This is not an instance
22 where we are being asked to defend agencies being sued, and no
23 request was ever made in filing this case under that provision
24 of the statute, so it is inapplicable here.

25 The portion of the statute that is relevant here is

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1 165.25, Sub 1M, which provides that the governor may request or
2 authorize the Attorney General to file suit or represent the
3 State, or agencies, officials, employees of the State in a
4 civil matter. That is what happened in this case. The
5 governor authorized the Wisconsin Attorney General to bring a
6 lawsuit in the name of the State. We represent the State in
7 this case. We do not represent the governor.

8 Judge Kang's order suggested that because we represent the
9 governor, we have access --

10 **THE COURT:** You said the governor authorized the AG
11 to bring the lawsuit?

12 **MR. STROUD:** That is correct.

13 **THE COURT:** Doesn't that cut against your argument?

14 **MR. STROUD:** It doesn't, because it doesn't show that
15 we represent him in this litigation.

16 So, for example, if we wanted to settle this case, we do
17 not need the governor's authority to do that. The governor
18 does not dictate how we litigate the case. His involvement is
19 purely presuit, authorizing the suit in the first instance.
20 But when the Attorney General proceeds with the litigation, his
21 client is not the governor. He is not representing the
22 governor in that sense.

23 One last point I want to make.

24 **THE COURT:** And where do the monies go in Wisconsin?

25 **MR. STROUD:** My understanding with regard to the

1 Wisconsin state statute that we've sued under there is a civil
2 penalties provision, but also a provision that provides for the
3 payment of monetary loss to consumers, essentially. So that
4 money would -- to the extent we receive money under that
5 provision of the statute, it would go to consumers and not the
6 State.

7 **THE COURT:** How does one do that in Wisconsin?

8 **MR. STROUD:** It varies by case. We've had different
9 methodologies. In some instances the money is sent to the
10 Attorney General's office so that we can disburse it to
11 consumers. In some instances a third-party vendor might be
12 hired to help administer the funding. In some instances the
13 defendants would pay it directly to the consumers by court
14 order.

15 **THE COURT:** Any monies that are more generic; that
16 is, including civil forfeitures, for instance, that are being
17 sought? Where do those monies go?

18 **MR. STROUD:** I can't speak confidently on that issue.
19 My understanding is that they go to the school fund, but I
20 can't be a hundred percent confident in that, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** Okay.

22 **MR. STROUD:** And if I may, one last point, unless you
23 have other questions about the monetary fees.

24 **THE COURT:** No, go ahead.

25 **MR. STROUD:** The last point I want to make is there's

1 one agency in particular, the Department of Public Instruction,
2 that Meta seeks documents from. Judge Kang held that we
3 represent the governor, and because the governor represent --
4 or controls other state agencies, we have control, by
5 extension, over those agencies' documents. That logic cannot
6 extend to the Department of Public Instruction.

7 The Department of Public Instruction is headed by a
8 superintendent, who is separately elected and is an independent
9 constitutional officer. She is not subject to the governor's
10 control. And so the logic that we represent the governor and
11 can therefore get documents from other agencies cannot extend
12 to the Department of Public Instruction, because that agency is
13 headed by a distinct independent constitutional officer that
14 the governor does not control.

15 Thank you, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

17 Response?

18 **MR. JACKSON:** Your Honor, Gavin Jackson for the Meta
19 defendants.

20 I think that our motion outlines our responses to these
21 points, so unless you have further questions, we're happy to
22 rest on our briefing.

23 **THE COURT:** I haven't memorized your -- I had a few
24 other things on my plate. A quick response would be
25 appreciated.

1 **MR. JACKSON:** Certainly, Your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** Especially given this last point.

3 **MR. JACKSON:** Yes, yes.

4 **THE COURT:** So public -- the superintendent --

5 **MR. STROUD:** The Department of Public Instruction.

6 **THE COURT:** Right; is headed by a superintendent who
7 is an independent constitutional officer.

8 **MR. JACKSON:** Yes, Your Honor. Happy to walk through
9 that.

10 On the last point about the Department of Public
11 Instruction, I am also not familiar with precisely how the
12 funding system works.

13 **THE COURT:** This isn't a funding question.

14 **MR. JACKSON:** Yes, and I'll get to it. But it
15 sounded like there was a possibility that the monies that would
16 be obtained from Meta would go towards the public schools, and
17 I'm not sure whether that would be within the control --

18 **THE COURT:** That's not what Judge Kang focused on.

19 **MR. JACKSON:** Yes.

20 **THE COURT:** He focused on the fact that the
21 governor -- he made a link between the governor and the
22 superintendent. A response on that specific issue.

23 **MR. JACKSON:** Yes, Your Honor.

24 We would submit that it -- based on the record that was
25 presented to Judge Kang, we don't think that that was clearly

1 erroneous. But even if it were clearly erroneous, we would
2 submit that the reasoning that applied to the other agencies
3 still holds.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. Was that not presented?

5 **MR. STROUD:** I believe that it was, Your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. Next.

7 **MR. STROUD:** Thank you.

8 **MS. LAUNER:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Krislyn
9 Launer for the State of Connecticut.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. Go ahead.

11 **MS. LAUNER:** To answer your questions, Your Honor,
12 the Attorney General does not have any statutory authority to
13 either subpoena state agency records or issue CIDs for those
14 records.

15 **THE COURT:** How do you get records, then?

16 **MS. LAUNER:** If we need records from a state agency
17 we ask for them. If they are not provided, I am unaware of any
18 legal action that's been taken to get those records.

19 **THE COURT:** So every time you've asked for them
20 you've gotten them?

21 **MS. LAUNER:** To the best of my knowledge, yes.

22 **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

23 **MS. LAUNER:** I am unaware of any Supreme Court or
24 appellate court cases that discuss the Attorney General's legal
25 control over state agency documents.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay.

2 **MS. LAUNER:** And your third question about money, if
3 the State of Connecticut were to receive any money as a result
4 of this case, it would go into the general fund for the
5 legislature to distribute as it sees fit.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay.

7 **MS. LAUNER:** And, Your Honor, if I may, a couple
8 points about the magistrate order.

9 **THE COURT:** Sure.

10 **MS. LAUNER:** Magistrate Judge Kang relied heavily on
11 Connecticut General Statutes 3-125 to -- for the preposition
12 (sic) that the Attorney General must represent all state
13 agencies in litigation; however, he did misconstrue that
14 statute. The Statute 3-125 does give the Attorney General
15 authority to represent state agencies but does not require the
16 Attorney General to represent state agencies in every case.
17 The Attorney General must approve and oversee the hiring of any
18 outside counsel, but he is not required to appear for state
19 agencies in every matter.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay. Anything else?

21 **MS. LAUNER:** That is it, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Next.

23 **MR. WALSH:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kevin Walsh
24 from the Ohio Attorney General's office.

25 I am not aware of any Supreme Court authority from Ohio

1 showing that the order was clearly erroneous.

2 As far as getting documents, the magistrate judge order
 3 cites a statute, 1331.16, and says that that statute expressly
 4 grants the Ohio Attorney General the explicit legal right to
 5 obtain and access the documents of the agencies at issue here.
 6 That statute is an antitrust statute. It's known as the
 7 Valentine Act. It can only be applied in monopoly and
 8 antitrust investigations and ultimate enforcements of the
 9 statute. So I believe it is clearly erroneous for the order to
 10 cite that statute as giving us an explicit legal right to
 11 access documents here.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. How do you get documents?

13 **MR. WALSH:** Well, we would have to go the way you
 14 talk about, the CID to the state agencies. We'll hope for
 15 volunteer compliance, which we're trying to do, or go the CID
 16 route.

17 As far as funding, the -- the penalties coming out of the
 18 consumer protection statute in Ohio is kind of funny. A
 19 quarter, one-fourth of the penalties go to the treasurer of the
 20 county that you file in if it's filed in Ohio. The remainder
 21 goes to something called the Consumer Protection Enforcement
 22 Fund, which is a statutorily created fund that essentially
 23 serves to fund the consumer protection section of the Ohio
 24 Attorney General.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. Anything else?

1 **MR. WALSH:** No, Your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

3 Next.

4 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Hello, Your Honor. Josh,
5 Josh Olszewski-Jubelirer for the People of the state of
6 California.

7 First you asked for a state appeals court decision that's
8 contrary to Judge Kang's order. We have that in California.
9 That is *People ex rel. Lockyer versus Superior Court*. This is
10 a co-national case, 122 Cal.App.4th 1060. It's a 2004 case.

11 **THE COURT:** What division?

12 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** I'm sorry?

13 **THE COURT:** What division?

14 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Apologies, Your Honor.

15 Fourth District, Division 1.

16 **THE COURT:** Okay.

17 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, *Lockyer* holds
18 that when the Attorney General brings a lawsuit under the UCL
19 and the FAL, the two statutes, state statutes that the People
20 bring here, the party plaintiff, the People, do not include
21 state agencies. State agencies are not parties to such a case.
22 That's in the decision at -- apologies, page 1076.

23 Furthermore, the Court held that the people, by
24 prosecuting this action, were not deemed to have possession,
25 custody or control over documents of any state agency. Such

1 documents must be obtained by subpoena.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. And was this cited?

3 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Yes, Your Honor, several
4 times.

5 **THE COURT:** And remind me, then, how he distinguished
6 it.

7 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, the magistrate
8 distinguished it because the order appears to believe that it
9 does not apply *Citric Acid's* legal right test.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay.

11 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** If I may say a couple of
12 points on that, Your Honor.

13 **THE COURT:** Sure.

14 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** The reasoning on *Lockyer* is
15 fully applicable to this case. It expressly defines the scope
16 of the People to not include state agencies. It emphasizes
17 that agencies are separate and distinct from the People and
18 from each other, and it holds that the People do not have
19 control for those reasons. This is entirely in line with the
20 arguments that courts have considered when applying a legal
21 right test, that in a divided executive, when an independently
22 elected constitutional officer, like the Attorney General, does
23 not have those agencies under his authority, he does not
24 control those agencies for the purposes of Rule 34.

25 Turning to investigations. I've spoken with others in my

1 office since I was last up here, and we are not aware of any
2 civil investigation into state agencies. We have -- the
3 Attorney General's office does occasionally investigate state
4 agencies criminally, and the means of obtaining documents in
5 those cases would be a search warrant, which, of course,
6 requires probable cause to believe that a crime has been
7 committed.

8 **THE COURT:** So the AG has never gotten documents from
9 a single agency?

10 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** In the course of
11 investigating, occasionally the AG will voluntarily ask
12 agencies to provide documents to assist in the investigation.
13 If --

14 **THE COURT:** And I assume they're provided?

15 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Sometimes they are
16 provided. I'm not --

17 **THE COURT:** Are you aware of any circumstance where
18 they were not?

19 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, I cannot say
20 for sure. I would have to double-check with my colleagues on
21 one particular instance that I'm thinking of.

22 I will say in this case, since the order has come out we
23 have asked the agencies subject -- that are at issue in this
24 case, at issue, for access to those documents, and they have
25 all refused. That's entirely consistent with *Lockyer's*

1 instruction that the People are not -- do not have control over
2 their documents.

3 I will say, at the end of the road, as *Lockyer* says, the
4 fact that those agencies will not provide documents to us is
5 not the end of the road for Meta's desires to obtain those
6 documents.

7 **THE COURT:** If I decide that you are under an order
8 to provide them and you do not get them or you do not produce
9 them, then my option are sanctions, and those sanctions at the
10 extreme are that you are -- your allegations are stricken from
11 the complaint.

12 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Absolutely, Your Honor.
13 And that is the exact position that courts like *American*
14 *Express*, *Warner Chilcott*, which considered an action by the
15 California Attorney General and found that the California
16 Attorney General did not have control over state agency
17 documents, that's the exact virtual veto concern that cases,
18 those cases have been concerned with. We do not -- the
19 Attorney General has -- is independently elected and
20 independently accountable to the People to protect their
21 interests. The legislature --

22 **THE COURT:** Where does the money go?

23 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** The money in UCL and FAL
24 cases goes -- half of it goes to the county in which the action
25 was filed, half of it goes to the general fund. I'm sorry, not

1 to the general fund, apologies. To the general fund. But by
2 statute, both of those monies to the county and to the general
3 fund "shall be for the exclusive use by the Attorney General,
4 the district attorney, county counsel and the city attorney for
5 the enforcement of consumer protection laws."

6 **THE COURT:** How does it work in an MDL?

7 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** In an MDL? In terms of
8 where does some of the money go to? Like which county?

9 **THE COURT:** Right.

10 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, I have thought
11 about that question. I haven't asked others in my office.
12 Certainly the Court we are standing and sitting right here is
13 in Alameda County, and my supposition would be that half of it
14 would go to Alameda County. But again, that is for the
15 exclusive use of the Attorney General and the district attorney
16 or other prosecutors for the enforcement of consumer protection
17 laws.

18 We also have a disgorgement remedy, Your Honor, and those
19 disgorgement monies are paid into a special consumer
20 restitution fund, which is only to be paid out to consumers who
21 are entitled to restitution in other consumer protection cases,
22 but where defendants do not have sufficient funds to pay
23 judgments.

24 If I may make just a couple of other points, Your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** Sure.

1 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** The order was contrary to
 2 law in determining that attorneys control their clients'
 3 documents. Attorneys do not control their clients' documents,
 4 and certainly not -- they do not have the legal right to obtain
 5 on demand clients' documents in order to produce them in
 6 litigation in which they are not parties, and *Lockyer* holds
 7 that in this case those agencies are not parties.

8 Now, Meta has conceded in its oppositions that the order
 9 was also wrong in its interpretation of how the Attorney
 10 General relates to the agencies in terms of representing them
 11 when they need representation. The order concluded based on
 12 its reading of the statutes that all of the agencies at issue
 13 would be or must be represented by the Attorney General absent
 14 consent by the Attorney General for those agencies to represent
 15 themselves or to hire outside counsel.

16 And it is true that those agencies, if they came to us, we
 17 would have a conversation and could authorize them to hire
 18 outside counsel. There is one exception, and that is the
 19 California Department of Education, which Meta points out, as
 20 well, in its opposition. The California Department of
 21 Education does not need any consent or a conversation with the
 22 Attorney General to represent itself in a judicial forum. In
 23 fact, in this case in response to Meta's Rule 45 subpoena,
 24 the -- my understanding based in part on Meta's production of
 25 those documents to us, is that the California Department of

1 Education represented itself in negotiating with Meta on that
2 subpoena, they produced documents to Meta, and we now have them
3 now only because Meta has reproduced them back to us.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. Any response?

5 **MR. YEUNG:** Sure. Why don't I start with -- this is
6 Chris Yeung from Covington.

7 Why don't I start with *Lockyer*. My esteem colleague
8 talked about *Lockyer*, talked about how it -- and you asked the
9 question: Is Judge Kang wrong that it didn't apply the *Citric*
10 *Acid* test. Gave you a lot of reasons, but what I didn't hear
11 is that *Lockyer* applied the *Citric Acid* test, because it
12 didn't. That's how Judge Kang distinguished the case. There
13 was no error.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. Any response on that?

15 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, I agree it does
16 not apply *Citric Acid*, but it answers the question in the sense
17 part of the Judge's reasoning is that the State -- these
18 agencies are somehow part of the State, and maybe they're
19 agents of the State that have this close connection with the
20 State, and that makes them, you know, more likely to be subject
21 to party. But *Lockyer* is very clear that those agencies are
22 separate and distinct from the People, and the People is the
23 plaintiff in this action.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay.

25 **MR. YEUNG:** And I'll go on.

1 Judge Kang, in the California-specific section of his
 2 opinion, did, in fact, cite several federal court decisions,
 3 district court decisions that postdate *Lockyer*, like *Qulliam* --
 4 like *Pulliam*, I'm sorry, and *Quiroga*, these are on page 52,
 5 that support his decision.

6 I think all there is here is a disagreement over Judge
 7 Kang's reading of the -- reading -- valuing the persuasiveness
 8 of different authority. This is not clear error. There are
 9 cases that support Judge Kang's decision that he cited to in
 10 his opinion, and they have not provided anything here to
 11 suggest it's clear error.

12 The second point I'd wait --

13 **THE COURT:** Wait.

14 Response.

15 **MR. OLSZEWSKI-JUBELIRER:** Your Honor, the cases that
 16 I believe counsel's referring to, *Pulliam versus Lozano*,
 17 there's a case called *Quiroga*, the order also cites your case
 18 called *Mitchell*, these cases were not raised by either of the
 19 parties below, they were the Court's independent research. And
 20 I think part of the reason why they're not raised is that these
 21 are prisoner civil rights cases against a prison official or
 22 multiple prison official defendants, and the only thing that
 23 these cases say is that in the Court's experience, when a
 24 prison official is a defendant, the attorney representing that
 25 prison official is -- has been able to obtain documents from

1 the prison agency.

2 So part of the issue is do officials -- do officials or
 3 employees have control over their employer's documents. That
 4 is not the case here. There's no suggestion that the People
 5 are an individual official employed by some other entity or any
 6 of these 13 agencies at issue. And secondly, these decisions
 7 rely on the same practical ability of reasoning that was
 8 rejected in *Citric Acid*.

9 So *Citric Acid* says very explicitly prior ability to
 10 obtain documents voluntarily is not sufficient for the legal
 11 right test, and this is the only thing in the decision. It
 12 says, you know, they -- the prison official defendant, or in
 13 some cases the Attorney General, are able to obtain documents
 14 from the prison agency in the course of defending this
 15 official.

16 First of all, CDCR is not one of the 13 agencies at issue
 17 here, so that is also distinguishing.

18 I will say *Mitchell*, which the Court says relied on common
 19 counsel, says nothing about common counsel. It merely says
 20 that high-ranking prison officials have control over documents
 21 at their prisons, like the warden has control of documents at
 22 the prison or at CDCR.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. Last comment.

24 **MR. YEUNG:** So last comment.

25 So I heard a lot of disagreement with those decisions. I

1 don't -- that's, again, disagreement with how Judge Kang read
2 them. It's not clear error. If you look at -- read the
3 decisions that he relied on, I believe they do support our
4 position.

5 The final point that I will make is California did, in the
6 *Generic* case, did in fact enter into a stipulation where they
7 agreed to produce agency documents. If they wanted to do it,
8 they could do it.

9 **THE COURT:** All right. Moving on to *Abraham versus*
10 *Meta*.

11 **MS. MIYATA:** Your Honor, my apologies. Bianca Miyata
12 for the state attorneys general.

13 I believe there are two states who have not been heard on
14 the three questions that the Court asked for state specific.

15 **THE COURT:** I didn't see anyone standing in line.

16 **MS. MIYATA:** Oh, I apologize. So I believe Colorado
17 and Kentucky remain on that list.

18 **THE COURT:** All right. Let's go ahead and take a
19 10-minute break, because I don't want the court reporter to
20 have a problem.

21 **MS. MIYATA:** Thank you, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** Ten minutes.

23 (A recess was taken from 1:29 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.)

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. We're back on the record. The
25 record will reflect that the parties are present.

1 Ms. Miyata.

2 **MS. MIYATA:** Thank you, Your Honor.

3 Briefly, Bianca Miyata for the state AG of Colorado.

4 I wanted to touch on the three questions that you've asked
5 every state here today.

6 The first question, whether there's a Supreme Court case
7 or appellate authority that's directly opposed to Magistrate
8 Judge Kang's order. There is not a case that touches on
9 document control in Colorado in that manner, but there is a
10 Colorado Supreme Court case that acknowledges the AG's ability
11 to act in its enforcement capacity against agencies it's
12 otherwise representing. And I think the natural conclusion of
13 that case, as well as the order read together, would be that
14 the AGs would have legal control and the right to access
15 documents for two adversely litigating parties, which clearly
16 creates somewhat of a conundrum.

17 On your second question, whether I'm aware of enforcement
18 of a civil investigative demand or subpoena against a state
19 agency, I am not aware of that happening in my time with the
20 AG's office, but I can say that the AG's office certainly can
21 and does enforce civil investigative demands against other
22 entities, and there may be a wide variety of reasons why they
23 would not do so against a state agency, including the delicate
24 balance of relationships there between state agencies and
25 including the desire, you know, there may be an analysis as to

1 just why they would not want to enforce it. It's not due to a
2 lack of ability.

3 **THE COURT:** So same question to you, though. So how
4 do you get documents when you need them?

5 **MS. MIYATA:** Well, when we -- and this being
6 specifically from state agencies?

7 **THE COURT:** Correct.

8 **MS. MIYATA:** So in this role as CP counsel, when I
9 need documents from a state agency, we can ask. We can also
10 issue a civil investigative demand. I can say in a previous
11 role I held in the AG's office when I was agency counsel, it
12 was not unusual at all for one particular agency to need
13 documents from another agency and then to have to litigate that
14 through to completion. I --

15 **THE COURT:** Well, but agency and agent versus agency
16 are different from the Attorney General and an agency.

17 **MS. MIYATA:** I understand that, Your Honor. That
18 is --

19 **THE COURT:** Have you ever come across a situation
20 where, if an AG asked, it wasn't produced?

21 **MS. MIYATA:** I have not come across that situation,
22 Your Honor, but I have to be frank. I'm not aware of many
23 situations where the AG would be asking an agency to
24 voluntarily give up documents in the course of an
25 investigation. I think those decisions are taken very

1 seriously.

2 I think that I did touch already about Your Honor's
 3 question about the general fund with regard to Colorado, but I
 4 can give you a cite for that in case it's helpful. It's
 5 Colorado Revised Statute 6-1-112 that specifies that civil
 6 penalties do revert back to the State's general fund, which is
 7 then allocated as the legislature sees fit.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay.

9 **MS. MIYATA:** And then if the Court would indulge me
 10 in just making two additional points specific to the State of
 11 Colorado, and then I will sit down.

12 There's -- I think we've heard about -- we've heard some,
 13 you know, variations on a theme here today, especially
 14 regarding the common argument and our concerns with some of the
 15 conclusions in this court order specific to Colorado. I think
 16 you saw that the Court cited Colorado Statute 6-1-116,
 17 Subsection 4, which is a statute that allows state agencies to
 18 enter into a data-sharing or information-sharing agreement with
 19 the Attorney General for enforcement purposes of the Consumer
 20 Protection Act. This statute is specific to licensing
 21 authorities. But I did want to highlight this, because I think
 22 that the fact that this statute even agrees kind of underscores
 23 the fact that voluntary compliance is necessary. There is not
 24 a legal right to access; otherwise, this statute would be
 25 completely superfluous and wouldn't really have any meaning.

1 I noted in the order as well as in my colleagues' response
2 on this topic that they said these agencies aren't licensing
3 agencies. I'd like to push back against that, because I think
4 many of the agencies from whom Meta is seeking documents are
5 actually licensing authorities. When I look at this list,
6 these agencies, Department of Education, Behavioral Health
7 Administration, Human Services, the Department of Regulatory
8 Agencies, they issue licenses to a wide variety of individuals
9 and entities for a wide variety of purposes. So this statute
10 is indeed on point for the agencies we're talking about here
11 today.

12 Which I guess just brings me, you know, to my conclusion,
13 which is that these agencies I've just spoken about were
14 collaborating and cooperating with Meta about the fulfillment
15 of any Rule 45 subpoenas that Meta chose to issue to them, and,
16 you know, we continue to be open and, you know, very amenable
17 to working through that process in the furtherance of getting
18 them documents.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

20 **MS. MIYATA:** Thank you.

21 **MR. YEUNG:** I'll just pick up on that last point.

22 **THE COURT:** I'm not asking for your comment.

23 **MR. YEUNG:** Oh, sure.

24 **THE COURT:** Next.

25 **MR. YEUNG:** Okay.

1 **MR. HEYBURN:** Hello, Your Honor. Jack Heyburn on
2 behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 To Your Honor's three questions, our office does have the
4 ability to issue CIDs. To our office's knowledge, we have
5 never issued one to an agency, nor have we ever used it to
6 fulfill a discovery request.

7 There is a provision of the Consumer --

8 **THE COURT:** How do you get documents?

9 **MR. HEYBURN:** Informally. And there is a provision
10 of the Consumer Protection Act, Kentucky Revised Statute
11 367.160, that gives the Attorney General a right to access to
12 evidence and materials from two special agencies, and that is
13 the Department of Insurance and the Public Services Commission,
14 and that gives us a legal right to documents from those
15 agencies about cases in front of those agencies. That's in the
16 same section as a general provision contemplating cooperation
17 between our office and other agencies, but the General Assembly
18 clearly knows how to give our office a legal right to
19 documents, and they did so in two very narrow ways.

20 **THE COURT:** Was that statute cited to Judge Kang?

21 **MR. HEYBURN:** Yes.

22 **THE COURT:** And how did he distinguish them?

23 **MR. HEYBURN:** Judge Kang relied on the neighboring
24 provision that contemplates cooperation between the Attorney
25 General and other agencies.

1 **THE COURT:** And what statute is that?

2 **MR. HEYBURN:** That is KRS 367.160.

3 If the cooperation language granted us a legal right to
4 documents throughout --

5 **THE COURT:** Hold on. I thought the right to access
6 from those two specific entities was 367.160.

7 **MR. HEYBURN:** It's the same section, and there are
8 different subsections within that statutory --

9 **THE COURT:** Which are the subsections?

10 **MR. HEYBURN:** So Subsection 1 is the cooperation
11 amongst agencies language.

12 **THE COURT:** Okay.

13 **MR. HEYBURN:** And then Subsections 2 and 3 grant the
14 Attorney General the legal right to access documents from those
15 specific agencies that I discussed.

16 **THE COURT:** All right.

17 **MR. HEYBURN:** The one point that I'll add on that
18 statute is that if the cooperation language granted our office
19 a right to access to documents across the Kentucky executive
20 branch, then the General Assembly wouldn't have needed to
21 specify in those two neighboring provisions where we have
22 access to documents from specific agencies.

23 Moving on to --

24 **THE COURT:** Then what does it refer -- I don't have
25 it in front of me, so what does it refer to if it says that it

1 must -- that there must be general cooperation?

2 **MR. HEYBURN:** It's cooperation with all of the
3 functions of the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act. So not just
4 litigation, but there's a number of other functions
5 contemplated in the sections that are referenced, such as
6 putting together materials on consumer protection or holding
7 conferences and the like. So it's a broad directive to
8 cooperate, but cooperate does not mean control.

9 **THE COURT:** Okay. Response.

10 **MR. CARPENTER:** Thank you, Your Honor.

11 That statute, which does say that the agencies have to,
12 quote, fully cooperate with the Attorney General in carrying
13 out its duties is probably enough on its own. It's the exact
14 sort of access statute that courts have looked before.

15 So, for example, the *Generic* court in Pennsylvania looked
16 at a similar statute that you heard about earlier today. If
17 fully cooperate with the Attorney General and enforcing --

18 **THE COURT:** Subsections 2 and 3 specifically grant
19 authority with respect to two agencies. How is that not
20 superfluous if your argument is that Subsection 1 refers to
21 everything?

22 **MR. CARPENTER:** So two responses to that, Your Honor.

23 The first is I think it's not unusual for a legislative
24 body to set out a general rule. So, for example, fully
25 cooperate, and then to apply it in more --

1 **THE COURT:** Do you have any -- what authority do you
2 have for that proposition?

3 **MR. CARPENTER:** I don't have any authority for that,
4 and that was not cited in the briefing.

5 **THE COURT:** Your next point?

6 **MR. CARPENTER:** Yes, Your Honor.

7 The other point is that, even setting that statute aside,
8 Kentucky's briefing in this appeal ignores the other
9 authorities that Judge Kang relied on. So, for example,
10 Revised Statute 15.020, Subsection 1, which makes the AG the
11 chief legal officer, or 15.020, Subsection 3, which says that
12 the AG shall attend to all litigation and legal business of any
13 department.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm not so sure I'm convinced, but
15 I'll take a look at them.

16 **MR. HEYBURN:** That brings me to my next point,
17 actually.

18 The order cites those provisions to say that our office
19 would represent the target agencies. We are not representing
20 the target agencies, and we don't have to. *Johnson v. Merideth*
21 which we cited, the pincite is -- the case cite is 291 Ky.
22 829 -- discusses the statutory framework that's in effect now,
23 whereby agencies can request for the Attorney General to
24 represent them, but they can also employ their own counsel.
25 And that case is from 1942. And it's an important case,

1 because before that, the Attorney General claimed exclusive
 2 authority to represent agencies and officers of the
 3 Commonwealth, and that case concerned the law that put into
 4 place the current scheme. And our office, at the time,
 5 actually decried it as "the ripper bill" that was ripping away
 6 our exclusive authority to represent officers and agencies of
 7 the government, but our Supreme Court upheld that structure in
 8 that case, *Johnson v. Merideth*, and as it stands now, agencies
 9 can come to us and request representation, we can decline, we
 10 can accept, and they can also employ their own counsel.

11 Your Honor also asked about the flow of funds. If we were
 12 to get civil penalties or disgorgement in this case, Kentucky
 13 Revised Statute 48.005, Subsection 4, provides a waterfall of
 14 how those funds are used. First they go to the Attorney
 15 General to pay for litigation fees, then they go to any
 16 consumers if there is a need to pay restitution to consumers,
 17 then any remaining funds go to the general fund, and funds in
 18 the general fund need to be appropriated. So the bare fact
 19 that funds are in the general fund doesn't mean that any of
 20 these agencies have an entitlement to those funds.

21 In terms of Supreme Court decisions directly contrary to
 22 the magistrate's ruling, I discussed *Johnson v. Merideth*.
 23 There are a number of cases discussing the separateness of the
 24 executive, the governor and the Attorney General. *Cameron v.*
 25 *Beshear* is one, which is 628 S.W. --

1 **THE COURT:** So those are general proposition.

2 Anything specific?

3 **MR. HEYBURN:** That is all on the specific cases that
4 directly rebut the order's holdings.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay.

6 **MR. HEYBURN:** I would just add, as well, that
7 Kentucky's agencies, the ones that have received subpoenas,
8 have been cooperating with those subpoenas. One of the
9 agencies has produced documents, I believe about 3000 of them.
10 Another compiled a set that they did not produce at Meta's
11 request. And that really goes back to the larger point that I
12 think applies to all of the states here.

13 The state agencies are ready, willing and able to comply
14 with the Rule 45 subpoenas, because they are not parties to
15 this case and there is an established way to get discovery from
16 nonparties, and that's through subpoenas. That way, Meta can
17 go directly to those nonparty agencies instead of having to
18 filter their discussions through the Attorney General, which,
19 in our case, we're not representing those agencies. It's a
20 much more efficient process, and it gives --

21 **THE COURT:** Well, it's more efficient for you, not
22 for them.

23 **MR. HEYBURN:** It --

24 **THE COURT:** And as many of you in this courtroom have
25 said, you frequently get things done informally, you have

1 relationships, you know how the thing works. Again, in my view
2 you all should have taken care of this and not wasted so much
3 in terms of judicial resources to get a ruling that, you know,
4 that's taken a huge amount of time.

5 And I will, I'm sure, be addressing that pretty quickly.
6 Not today, but pretty quickly.

7 **MR. HEYBURN:** The very last point I would make is
8 that, of course, under the legal right test, the voluntary
9 furnishing of documents is not a factor in whether there's
10 control or not.

11 And with that, that's all I have unless Your Honor has any
12 further questions.

13 **THE COURT:** No, thank you.

14 **MR. COSTA:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ryan Costa
15 on behalf of the Delaware Attorney General's office. I'm just
16 up here to take one minute to answer your third question
17 regarding the flow of funds.

18 The Delaware Attorney General's office has a consumer
19 protection fund. If any funds are received through this case,
20 they would go into that fund. It's provided by statute 6
21 Delaware Code 2727. And any money in those funds is to be
22 spent on the enforcement of our consumer fraud act and
23 antitrust acts. Not only does it not go to the other agencies,
24 but it doesn't go to the DOJ as a whole, unless the director of
25 the Office of Management and Budget approves our request.

1 There is a cap of \$10 million. Over that cap it does revolve
2 into the general fund, but not until then.

3 That is all I have.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

5 **MR. YEUNG:** Your Honor --

6 **THE COURT:** No.

7 **MR. YEUNG:** Okay. Thank you.

8 **MR. CHAND:** Your Honor, Kashif Chand from the New
9 Jersey Division of Law. I just wanted to take just one -- a
10 few seconds to correct something that was said on the record
11 earlier.

12 We cited to a Supreme Court case, In Re: Advisory
13 Committee on Professional Ethics, Opinion 621. The cite is 620
14 A.2d 880. I want to clarify that that was a decision that is
15 binding in New Jersey. There was seven justices, and that was
16 the full panel of justices that heard that issue, and it is
17 binding authority in New Jersey.

18 Thank you.

19 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Your Honor, Phil Ziperman for the
20 Maryland Attorney General's office. I just wanted to clarify
21 one point that was made while my colleague was from Florida is
22 here.

23 Meta argued that the state AGs that only brought cases in
24 their capacities as state AGs can only do so on behalf of the
25 state. That's just simply not true. My office can only bring

1 affirmative litigation cases to enforce those statutes that
2 it's authorized to enforce. We bring consumer protection cases
3 not -- through the consumer protection division. We bring
4 antitrust cases through the antitrust division. We bring
5 security cases through the securities division.

6 There are some instances where, if Maryland wants to
7 prosecute a case, for example in tort, it would need to get the
8 governor's permission, but it would still be prosecuting that
9 case in the Attorney General's capacity. There is no law in
10 Maryland that says that we can only prosecute cases as the
11 Attorney General through the state. That's just not true.

12 **THE COURT:** Okay.

13 **MR. ZIPERMAN:** Thank you.

14 **MR. CARPENTER:** Would you like a response, Your
15 Honor?

16 **THE COURT:** No.

17 **MR. CARPENTER:** Happy to rest on the briefing, then.

18 **THE COURT:** *Abraham versus Meta.* Appearances.

19 **MR. STEIN:** Joshua Stein on behalf of Abraham.

20 **MS. HAZAM:** Lexi Hazam on behalf of MDL plaintiffs.

21 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Ashley Simonsen on behalf of Meta.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. I've read the statement. You have
23 a very short time to add anything.

24 **MR. STEIN:** We will rest on our submission, Your
25 Honor.

1 **MS. HAZAM:** As will we, Your Honor.

2 **MS. SIMONSEN:** As will we, Your Honor.

3 **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm not going to let Boies
4 Schiller come in here with a class action that it thinks does
5 something that the other cases do not. You all don't do
6 anything really different. The kinds of arguments that are
7 being made really do not do justice to the nature of the
8 actions that have already been brought and have been litigated
9 for close to two years. So I can't force you to dismiss it,
10 but you're certainly not going to disrupt the process. So you
11 can proceed in the normal course. Understood?

12 **MR. STEIN:** Your Honor, just a point of
13 clarification. When you say in the normal course, are you
14 indicating that the case is stayed or some other posture, Your
15 Honor?

16 **THE COURT:** Well, I expect that when you came here
17 you didn't want this answer, so you tell me what you're gonna
18 do with it. But you certainly are not going to get in the
19 flow. If you want to ask to join the leadership committee, you
20 can ask to join. Everybody has to re-up in a year, or actually
21 in December. All of the applications for reappointment are
22 due. My point is, is that you are not going to insert yourself
23 in your own way in your own case on the claim that it does
24 something different; it does not.

25 **MR. STEIN:** Understood, Your Honor.

1 Our perspective, we represent a putative class of a lot of
2 people that are not represented currently and have due process
3 concerns about a stay. We can meet and confer if some specific
4 request of how we'd like to proceed and see if that's workable
5 to the plaintiffs.

6 **THE COURT:** That's fine. I'll put you on for a CMC
7 and the next time the MDL meets.

8 **MR. STEIN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** Okay. Some other miscellaneous issues
10 that I have, and then you can tell me if you all have anything
11 separate.

12 Typically in my class actions -- and I don't know if I've
13 done it here, so I just want to make sure that it's being done,
14 and this is really to the plaintiffs. To the extent that you
15 are using vendors who are collecting information on behalf of
16 plaintiffs, I need you to ensure for me that your contracts
17 indicate that they will delete all that data and that they are
18 not using it for any other purpose other than what you
19 authorize. Data is valuable, and I don't want these vendors
20 using it outside of this litigation. So please confirm that.

21 **MS. HAZAM:** Understood, Your Honor. It is our belief
22 that all of our vendors do that, but we will explicitly confirm
23 for you at the next hearing.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. Next. At the conference I heard
25 some pretty significant horror stories about vendors and the

1 relationship of plaintiffs, or plaintiffs' friends and family
2 or associates who had relationships with the vendors which
3 created lots of increased costs and things like that. You
4 know, these are the stories that give plaintiffs' lawyers bad
5 names. So when -- so, one, I want you all to make sure that
6 you've done whatever investigation you need to do to make sure
7 that there is nothing going on behind the scenes that should
8 raise concerns about vendors.

9 Second, with respect to these applications to be
10 reappointed which are coming up, I want to -- everyone to
11 confirm whether the situation has changed. I asked about
12 litigation funding before. I want to know about it again.
13 Just because I asked in the first instance doesn't mean that if
14 the circumstances changed, I'm not interested. So that needs
15 to be part of the disclosure to the Court.

16 We need to do a better job, and I include the Court in
17 this, in having a website or something so that individuals who
18 are not in the know have access to information, understand
19 what's going on, can get the information that they need. When
20 I can we'll try to figure out how to make our website better,
21 but there is no one website for this MDL; everybody has their
22 own. And I would ask you all to talk about whether that's
23 really the best way to keep people abreast of what's going on.
24 And I don't -- my initial instinct is that it's not. So I
25 think that's important.

1 Other things that were recommended at the conference by
 2 lawyers, not by judges. There were three things that I want to
 3 raise. One is off-the-record conversations. I tend not to
 4 like to do off-the-record conversations. I think the judiciary
 5 is frequently criticized for not being transparent. This is a
 6 public -- this is an issue of interest with the public.

7 If -- so I'll say this once, and there are going to be
 8 enough of you who are here by the end. If there is some time
 9 when you think that it would be helpful to have an off-the-
 10 record conversation, we have liaison counsel, send me a note.
 11 Sometimes, you know, if -- maybe we're down the road and, you
 12 know, these cases are going to trial, maybe they're not. But
 13 maybe they're going to trial. You're trying to settle them.
 14 You need -- there's something that people are getting stuck on.
 15 You need to have a conversation that you think will unstick
 16 some of these knottier points, then let me know and I'm happy
 17 to have it if it's useful.

18 But understand that I am going to -- one of my hesitation
 19 is that we are a public forum. Right? I make the offer. I
 20 expect you'll remember it if you need it. Okay?

21 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Thank you.

22 **THE COURT:** The other recommendation was -- and,
 23 again, we can talk about this with the plaintiffs' counsel and
 24 the applications -- that to the extent that leadership is not
 25 accessible, and I'm assuming that you are, but maybe if you're

1 not, people are afraid of you -- I hear people are afraid of
2 me; I don't know why. But maybe there should be a complaints
3 person that people can go to if they have complaints about
4 leadership, and, you know, given Mr. Sieger's role maybe he's a
5 good person for it, I don't know, because he's not directly in
6 leadership anymore. But, so think about that, to try to make
7 sure that everybody's staying onboard.

8 The other suggestion that was made that I am uncomfortable
9 requiring, apparently there are judges who require counsel on
10 both sides to have joint dinners, where the rules are that you
11 cannot talk about the case, you can only talk about each
12 other's lives, your kids, what's your favorite sporting event.
13 I don't know, drinks or something. Seems like a good idea, but
14 I'm a little hesitant to force you to do it.

15 I've actually done that kind of intervention myself with
16 lawyers who are on the criminal side who regularly appear in
17 front of me, who regularly, you know, do lots of litigation
18 against each other when things get a little bit out of control.
19 If you need me to order you to do it, then let me know. That
20 could be one of these off-the-record things. But you might
21 think about it. People say it works really well to keep
22 conversations going. It's harder to be a jerk to someone when
23 you know them personally. I believe that. But I'm not
24 currently inclined to demand that you do it.

25 Okay.

1 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

2 If I may, Ashley Simonsen for the Meta defendants.

3 I believe that we have a really good working relationship
4 together and have almost become -- I've come to feel that I
5 have friends in Lexi and Previn. I think we do know about each
6 other's sort of personal lives, and I think the communication
7 has been very positive on that front, and I would be glad to
8 take up Your Honor's invitation with them to do more of that.
9 But I appreciate the sentiment, and I think we're already
10 really well on our way there.

11 **MS. HAZAM:** Likewise, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** Okay.

13 **MS. HAZAM:** It's easy to be voluntold on this, to use
14 a phrase that some of our clients do.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay.

16 **MS. HAZAM:** And we will be mindful of all of the
17 other points the Court has raised, including the issue with
18 regards to vendors. I want to convey to the Court that we have
19 no reason to believe that there are any issues there, but we'll
20 be diligent in being watchful for that. We did engage in
21 competitive bidding with almost all of our vendors, so there
22 was a process to identify the ones who are best suited to this
23 case and to make sure we were being efficient.

24 As far as a website goes, I think that is worthy of
25 further exploration. I believe that BrownGreer has a website

1 that has certain information for plaintiffs, but I think the
2 Court is probably thinking for the larger public also, without
3 having to actually go through Pacer and enter the official
4 docket. So we can work on that for sure.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. Could you let me -- could you tell
6 me, I don't know if you know off the top of your head, what the
7 going rate is for document review that you all are being
8 charged? Given remote proceedings these days and remote work,
9 I'm curious what the rate is that you all are using.

10 **MS. HAZAM:** So it may vary some, Your Honor, with the
11 type of document review, whether it's first-level linear
12 document review or something that's for a more refined purpose
13 in support of a deposition or an expert, for example. It also
14 varies according to whether the document reviewer is a staff
15 attorney at the law firm with the associated overhead and
16 benefits.

17 **THE COURT:** I'm only talking about --

18 **MS. HAZAM:** Contract?

19 **THE COURT:** Contract.

20 **MS. HAZAM:** Contract doc. review?

21 Again, varies both for the purpose, and over time with the
22 market changing it might be in the arena of something like \$50
23 to \$60 an hour for basic-level document review, and defendants
24 may have their own data points on this.

25 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Ashley Simonsen for the Meta

1 defendants. I was going to throw out a similar number, 50 to a
2 hundred an hour, depending on the level of seniority of the
3 contract reviewer. That's my understanding.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you. CMC. It's always good
5 to get on your calendars early, and my calendar is difficult.
6 Here are the dates that I'm thinking about. Well, let me as
7 before we get there, because this will be the last thing. Were
8 there anything else that you all want to talk about?

9 **MR. WARREN:** Your Honor, Previn Warren for the
10 plaintiffs.

11 Just one quick question about the reappointment
12 applications. Does Your Honor have a timeframe for that, or
13 will there be an order directing that?

14 **THE COURT:** There is an order. So if you look at the
15 original order, it gives you the annual timeframe. I believe
16 they're due in December. And then I don't have it off the top
17 of my head, but it was annual.

18 **MR. WARREN:** It was a recurring?

19 **THE COURT:** It was a recurring.

20 **MR. WARREN:** Very well. Thank you.

21 **THE COURT:** Anything else?

22 **MS. HAZAM:** Nothing further from plaintiffs, Your
23 Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** Defense?

25 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Your Honor, may I just clarify one

1 thing I mentioned earlier relating to Roblox and Discord?

2 I mentioned that they were in some of the bellwether
3 cases. They're not actually named defendants, I wanted
4 clarify, but they've been identified on four plaintiffs and
5 their plaintiff fact sheets as social media apps that were used
6 by those bellwethers. Happy to confer with plaintiffs about
7 the stipulation that they're working on already. We just want
8 to make sure we are able to take discovery if we need to,
9 notwithstanding that claims against those defendants would
10 otherwise be stayed.

11 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. Is that it?

12 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Yes, Your Honor.

13 **THE COURT:** January 17th, 9:00 a.m. That is a
14 Friday. Any problems generally speaking?

15 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Your Honor, for the defendants I'm not
16 aware that that would be a problem.

17 **MS. HAZAM:** Likewise, Your Honor, for plaintiffs.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. Then for February I can give you
19 either February 12th or February 19th. Those are Wednesdays.
20 And in case it impacts it, the next day I can give you after is
21 March 21st, which is a Friday.

22 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Your Honor, defendants might have a
23 slight preference for the 19th, but either would work.

24 **MS. HAZAM:** And we're the opposite, Your Honor. So
25 in that event I think the Court should simply choose.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. April 23rd would be the next one.
2 That's a Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

3 **MS. SIMONSEN:** No issue for the defendants, Your
4 Honor.

5 **MS. HAZAM:** Same for plaintiffs.

6 **THE COURT:** And then we already have it on the
7 calendar. We will not have one in May. The next one after
8 that will be June 13th, but I need to move you to 2:00 p.m.
9 And that one's already on the calendar. Okay. I'll figure out
10 the February date. Anything else?

11 **MS. HAZAM:** Not here, Your Honor.

12 **MS. SIMONSEN:** Nothing from defendants.

13 **THE COURT:** Okay. Everybody have safe travels, and
14 we'll see you next month.

15 (Proceedings concluded at 2:15 p.m.)

16 ---o0o---

17 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

18 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
19 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

20 DATE: Friday, November 1, 2024

21

22 
23

24 Stephen W. Franklin, RMR, CRR, CPE
25 Official Reporter, U.S. District Court